

Hafa Adai!

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Chamber pins hope on some kind of reprieve

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Twenty-five days before the Sept. 30 expiration of the work permits of foreign workers in the CNMI, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce remains hopeful that the CNMI would be granted a reprieve that would prevent the exodus of thousands of its workers.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview that she remains hopeful for “some kind of

reprieve” to prevent foreign workers under CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program from leaving the CNMI. If that
See CHAMBER on Page 4

YUTU AND MANGKHUT Double whammy on NMI economy

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor recognizes that, despite the upward trend in the CNMI's financial posture in the last few years, it hit a considerable

bump when Typhoon Mangkhut ravaged Rota and Super Typhoon Yutu devastated Saipan and Tinian in fiscal year 2019.

That double whammy of typhoons resulted in the two
See DOUBLE on Page 4

Plastic bag ban mulled

» **EPA: Over 380 billion plastic bags used in US**

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A blanket ban on single-use plastic bags is brewing at the Legislature, with the introduction of a bill that would ban the importation, production, distribution, and use of plastic bags in the CNMI.

Sen. Vinson Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) Senate Bill 21-37 seeks to follow the example

of Palau, Hawaii, Guam, Yap, Fiji, Vanuatu, and the Marshall Islands in responding to con-
See PLASTIC on Page 4



SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

CNMI Office of Youth Affairs partnered with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality-Coastal Resource Management to stress the importance of saving turtles at a recent outreach. To start the school season in a fun way, staff of the CNMI Office of Youth Affairs dressed up as cartoon characters last Tuesday to welcome the children who were going back to school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Parole applicant did intend to murder victim'

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

Chief Prosecutor John Bradley opposed the potential release of convicted murderer Ezra Deleon Guerrero, saying he clearly had the intention to commit murder and that he has only served the absolute minimum sentence

to be eligible for parole.

In his application for parole, Deleon Guerrero insists that he was under the influence of methamphetamine or “ice” when he killed Korean businessman Jae Soung Shim on May 17, 2009.

At a recent Board of Parole hearing to
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INSIDE



BUSINESS

NMTI graduate Daryll Metran is the brains and talent behind Saipan Food Express.

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NATION

Hurricane Dorian is losing strength as it churns closer to the Florida coast.

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LIFE & STYLE

Justin Bieber is opening up about a string of “bad decisions” that led to his fall from grace.

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Local

WESPAC report: CNMI fish stocks down after Yutu

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Super Typhoon Yutu affected the existing fish stock of the CNMI toward the end of 2018 and into 2019, as evidenced by the respective 19% and 5% decrease in revenue in both pelagic and bottomfish (com-

mercial and non-commercial) fishing.

This finding is part of the Western Pacific Region 2018 Status of the Fisheries report by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, which covered the status of pelagic, bottomfish, and coral reef

fish ecosystems in CNMI.

The report is a result of boat-based surveys and interviews conducted both in the first, and second half of the year.

The report also talked about management actions the National Marine Fisheries Service has taken for CNMI fisheries since the April 2018 Joint

FEP Plan Team meeting.

These include the five-year extension of moratorium on harvest of gold corals in the U.S. Pacific Islands through June 30, 2023, to prevent overfishing and to stimulate research on gold corals; and, the reclassification of certain management unit species in the Pacific Islands as ecosystem component species.

This rule, which took effect last March 11, is done to prioritize conservation and management efforts and to

improve efficiency of fishery management in the region.

The Western Pacific Region Status of the Fisheries 2018 report was published by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council to provide data and trends about last year's fishery participation, catch rates, landings, and other fishery performance factors.

The report also covers ecological components that may impact fishery outcomes such as protected species interactions, climate and oceano-

graphic conditions and socio-economic factors.

The report is a collaboration among the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, National Marine Fisheries Service-Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center, Pacific Islands Regional Office, Division of Aquatic Resources (Hawaii), Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (American Samoa), Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (Guam), and the Division of Fish and Wildlife (CNMI).



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Police search for 4 possible theft suspects



These frame grabs from the surveillance footage taken inside the I Love Saipan store in Garapan and provided by the Department of Public Safety shows the four suspects.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is working to identify four female suspects who are being linked to a theft incident at the I Love Saipan store in Garapan.

According to a statement yesterday, DPS received a call last July 17 at 4:43pm about a theft incident at the store. About three minutes after the 911 call, police arrived at the store and interviewed the store's security officer.

The security officer said that an employee noticed a basket and hangers in the female restroom just before closing time the night before. The store prohibits customers from bringing such items to the restrooms.

When security personnel reviewed the surveillance

footage, they noticed a group of four unknown women taking turns carrying a black bag. The footage identified a female wearing a yellow shirt, the second female wearing a black shirt, the third female wearing a gray sweater, and the fourth female wearing a blue jersey-type shirt containing the number "3" printed on the front and the back.

The footage begins with the four females heading down the store's second floor clothing shop. As soon as the group meet on the first floor, they roamed around the store, as the female with the black shirt returned a cart to the front counter. One of the women actually pointed at a camera that was turned in the direction of the group.

Throughout the entirety of the footage the police provided, the females were pass-

ing the black bag around until all four reached the women's restroom. Shortly after, the female with the bag walked up the stairs to pass on the bag to the others and they all left the store in different exits.

All four later met outside near the store, and they looked like they checked out the contents of the bag until the end of the footage. The DPS statement says the females walked south along Alaihai Avenue. It does not specify what the four suspects took from the store.

According to the statement, detectives were recently given access to the surveillance file of the incident.

For those who may have information on the unknown suspects, call 911 or, to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at (670) 234-7272.

Re-trial of woman accused of harboring illegal alien starts

A jury re-trial began yesterday in federal court in the case of a woman charged with one count of harboring an illegal alien.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona completed the selection of 13 jurors, including one alternate, who will decide the fate of Lili Zhang Tydingco.

Both the prosecution and

defense will give opening statements today, Thursday, at 8:30am.

Tydingco is represented by court-appointed counsel Bruce Berline. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe is counsel for the U.S. government.

According to the superseding indictment, beginning Nov. 5, 2013 until Feb. 19, 2015, Tydingco concealed a child, who entered the CNMI

and remained here in violation of the law.

The charge is based upon allegations that Lili Tydingco and her husband, Francisco Muna Tydingco, brought a minor child to Saipan in order for her to attend public school. Allegedly, the child's parole period expired while still in school.

According to Berline, the

See RE-TRIAL on Page 4

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Siblings oppose naming ex-employer as estate administrator

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The six siblings of an electrician who died and left behind \$20,794 in a bank account are opposing the request of the man's former employer to be reappointed as his estate administrator.

The Philippine-based siblings, through lawyer Charity R. Hodson, asked the Superior Court to deny Juan A. Gacayan's petition to be named administrator of the estate of Eduardo Ocampo David.

Instead, they want Christopher G. Imbo, a friend of David's family and a CNMI resident, to be named as such.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho will hear the matter today, Thursday.

Hodson said that Gacayan is not the best person to administer David's estate. She said Gacayan has no interest in David's estate, is not an heir, and has already engaged in repeated breaches of fiduciary duty in the time that he has served as the estate's administrator.

"Every heir to this estate objects to Mr. Gacayan's improper attempt to be reappointed as such," Hodson said.

The lawyer said that David's siblings, who now claim to be David estate's heirs, have already notified Imbo that David's probate had been opened.

She said Imbo already holds a power of attorney for the estate heirs, allowing him to

gather any assets in which the heirs may have an interest, which demonstrates their trust and confidence in him. Hodson said it was Imbo who sought an attorney and facilitated their representation in this matter.

Hodson said Imbo is trusted by the estate heirs and has already facilitated notice of the probate matter on the estate heirs, which is something Gacayan never even attempted to do until she (Hodson) filed her entry of appearance in this case.

The lawyer said Gacayan repeatedly made misrepresentations to the court, engaged in self-dealing, failed to notify the estate heirs, and has breached his fiduciary duty to handle the estate's assets in a manner that is in the estate's best interest.

She said Gacayan has made repeated misrepresentations to the court, by omission, that David was not married and had no children.

Hodson said the implication of this omission, coupled with Gacayan's representation that he is a family friend of David, is that the decedent did not leave any heirs eligible to inherit from this estate under rules of interstate succession as set in the Commonwealth Probate Code.

She said under Rule 15 of the NMI Rules of Probate Pro-



Hodson

cedure, Gacayan was required to allege the names, ages, and heirs of David, so far as they were known to him. She said Gacayan failed to do so, despite representing himself as David's family friend.

Hodson said under Rule 16 of the NMI Rules of Probate Procedure, Gacayan was required to personally serve or mail the estate heirs with the notice of hearing on the matter and failed to do so.

She said Gacayan engaged in self-dealing by petitioning the court to distribute the estate's only asset to himself, when he had no legal or other authority to do so.

Hodson said Gacayan has wasted estate resources in incurring attorney's fees and costs in a petition for decree of final distribution with an improper proposed distribution, in a status conference to discuss the improper proposed distribution, and in the heirs having to hire another lawyer.

Hodson added that Gacayan filed the amended petition for letters of administration, re-starting the probate process on a probate that was opened almost a year ago now.

In his amended petition for letters of administration filed in court last Aug. 5, Gacayan, through counsel Joey P. San Nicolas, informed the

court that he still wants to be the administrator, this time listing the five surviving siblings who are currently in the Philippines.

San Nicolas said the surviving siblings of David were not included in his initial petition to serve as administrator and that he is now correcting the omission.

David's surviving siblings were identified as Maria Gina Ocampo David-Cuenco, Monalisa Ocampo David, Marlene Ocampo David, Elizabeth Ocampo David Sta. Ana, and Avelino Ocampo David.

Hodson, who was hired as counsel by the same siblings, listed six siblings, including Olivia Ocampo David, who is not on Gacayan's list.

In Gacayan's amended peti-

tion, San Nicolas said David died without leaving any will on Oct. 15, 2018 on Saipan.

Last Dec. 20, the court granted Gacayan's initial petition for letters of administration.

San Nicolas said Gacayan is a family friend of David, who had never been married and has no children.

San Nicolas said the property of David's estate consists of approximately \$20,000 in savings account at the Bank of Guam in Garapan.

San Nicolas said Gacayan is a suitable administrator of the estate and would help ensure an expeditious handling and settlement of all probate matters with the least nominal expenses.

David, who hails from Pampanga, Philippines, died at the age of 60 at the Common-

wealth Health Center on Oct. 15, 2018, more than a week after he had a heart attack. His remains were brought to the Philippines last November.

Gacayan's original petition asked the court to allow him inherit David's money in the bank. Camacho expressed concern last June, since an employer is not an heir when there is no will that expressly states that such employer will get an inheritance upon a person's death.

Camacho ordered Gacayan to appear in court last June 20 and explain how a non-family individual can inherit money from a decedent without a will.

Upon learning about the probate through *Saipan Tribune's* article, the siblings hired Hodson as their counsel.

CUC warns of wastewater treatment plant odor

There will be a scheduled re-activation of the aerators in the digester at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Sadog Tasi Treatment Plant on Friday, Sept. 6, from 1pm to 7pm that will cause a sewage odor in the Sadog Tasi, Puerto Rico, Lower Base, Lower Navy Hill, and Garapan areas throughout the re-activation process.

The temporary clarifier needs to allow for additional sludge layer build up on the bottom of the basin to properly

capture and draw the waste sludge from the unit. This process may take up to four to six hours depending on the timing of the treatment process changes. As a result, there will be reduced odors and improved effluent quality.

CUC is also working on lessening the odor around the treatment plant to prevent odors affecting the neighboring areas. We will be looking at alternatives for masking the smell of the treatment process

which is not hazardous to you, just unpleasant to smell.

CUC appreciates the public's patience throughout this sewage process and will continue to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

IN OMNIBUS SETTLEMENT DEAL WITH CPA

'CUC concern outside of scope of original discussion'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said yesterday that the omnibus settlement agreement between CPA and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has yet to be finalized because CUC has a concern that CPA believes to be outside the scope of what they had originally talked about.

CPA and CUC drafted the omnibus settlement agreement to resolve the many disputes they have had for many years relating to utilities and water charges, as well as easement and access/right to use.

Last June 18, the CPA board approved with some conditions the draft CUC-CPA omnibus agreement.

At this point, CPA is still waiting for CUC to address the concern, according to King-Hinds yesterday. She did not specify what CUC's concern is.

"CPA is hopeful that a complete resolution will be reached as soon as possible as the additional delays has had an impact on our audits," she said.

The CUC board discussed

the omnibus settlement deal during an executive session last week.

King-Hinds said CPA, over the course of the negotiations, has come to the table in good faith and willingness to cooperate and compromise to reach an agreement that is in the public's best interest.

"CPA believes that what it has offered and put on the table is fair and reasonable," she said.

King-Hinds pointed out that when CUC asked for immediate payment of certain disputed amounts, CPA delivered on it because it was the right thing to do. She said CPA believes that such payment was in the best interest of the community, which relies on CUC to provide reliable utility services at a fair and just rate.

Last June, CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho disclosed that CUC's senior management is still reviewing and working with CPA representatives to finalize the omnibus settlement deal. He said the agreement is something that they want to resolve quickly.

He said there are scenarios that they need to finalize and also some conditions that CPA

put together that they are expecting from CUC.

The terms of the agreement would basically give CUC permanent easement for use and access to 67 water wells on CPA premises; the existing CUC waterline transporting the water from the well to the CUC island system; CPA's 20-million gallon water tank; and the CUC sand filtration system on CPA premises.

Under the terms of the agreement, CUC will; be responsible for maintaining the water wells easement. This will provide CPA with continuous water supply from the water resources on its premises free of charge.

CPA will, however, pay for sewerline charges at an established flat rate.

King-Hinds earlier stated that this omnibus settlement deal will resolve the specific charges that have been an ongoing dispute between CUC and CPA.

This agreement would basically provide an offset of charges, said King-Hinds, noting that CPA will pay CUC the sum of \$7.2 million as a settlement amount for the disputed water charges and penalty.

Help rebuild Tinian church

TINIAN—The San Jose Parish on Tinian is calling on the CNMI public to help the parish in its effort to rebuild the church and its social hall from the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu by supporting

their fundraising campaign.

“I am calling for the community to support our raffle to build the San Jose Tinian church,” said Fr. Rey D. Rosal, the parish priest.

He is also appealing for do-

nations in cash or in-kind like cement, rebars, or any other material that would help in the reconstruction effort.

To help raise funds, a 2020 Kia Soul is being raffled off, with the draw on Oct. 18, 2019, at the San Jose church grounds.

The goal is to first rebuild

the parish’s San Jose Social Hall—the old St. Joseph school building—so it can be used as a temporary place of worship. After that, the parish will start to finalize the plan to build a new church, which would include surveying the church area.

Right now, Tinian parish-

ioners hold Mass inside the church, which is still pretty much damaged from Super Typhoon Yutu.

The San Jose Social Hall was destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year. The church sustained massive damage, with broken windows, roofs, and doors. Its rehabilitation would cost between

\$300,000 and \$500,000, while the construction of the new and concrete church was estimated at \$1.7 million.

In an earlier interview, Rosal said it will take two to three years to rebuild the church.

Raffle tickets, which cost \$10, can be purchased at local Saipan parishes or by contacting Rosal at (670) 287-0131. *(Iva Maurin)*

Man pleads guilty to sex abuse of minor

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A man who attempted to jump off a three-story building in Chalan Kanoa after he was allegedly caught sexually abusing an 11-year-old girl pleaded guilty yesterday as part of a plea deal.

Jordan Robert Tudela, 37, pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the second de-

gree. As part of the deal, Tudela will be sentenced to a term of imprisonment not more than 15 years, to be decided by the judge at the sentencing hearing.

Tudela will also pay a fine up to \$10,000, to be decided by the judge.

Tudela is prepared to accept any punishment and will not be able to withdraw his guilty plea if the judge does not agree

with the terms of the deal.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday set the sentencing for Dec. 4, 2019.

Tudela is represented in the case by assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues. Assistant attorney general Samantha Vickery is prosecuting the case.

According to court documents, Tudela sexually abused the girl on Dec. 1, 2018. Tudela’s girlfriend told police that she caught the defendant

sexually molesting the girl at a residence in Chalan Kanoa. Tudela allegedly begged to his girlfriend not to report the matter to authorities. The girlfriend did so, nonetheless, prompting Tudela to climb atop a three-story building in Chalan Kanoa and threaten to jump off it.

For over three hours, police officers and other first responders urged Tudela to get off the edge of the building. He was later arrested at the site.

PLASTIC

From Page 1

cerns surrounding the use of plastic and their effects on the environment.

Sablan’s S.B. 21-37 seeks to prohibit the importation and production of single-use plastic bags in the CNMI four months after the bill’s enactment.

As defined in the bill, single-use plastic bags are bags designed for one-time use, most often in grocery stores and other convenience shops. The legislation recognizes

plastic bags less than 3 mils, or less than 0.003 inches in thickness as single-use.

The legislation authorizes the Division of Customs to inspect shipments and seize single-use plastic bags and enforce penalties that range from \$250 minimum per day from the date of the issuance of the notice of violation for the first offense.

A second violation comes with a fine of \$500 and the third violation a fine of \$1,000. Subsequent violations impose a minimum fine of \$1,000 but less than \$1,500.

One year after the enact-

ment of S.B. 21-37, all businesses in the Commonwealth are prohibited from providing single-use plastic checkout bags to customers for the purpose of transporting groceries or other goods.

According to the legislation, businesses are free to use either reusable bags or paper bags for customers transporting groceries.

“Bags that are made from plastic that are washable, specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse, and are at least 0.3 mils [0.003 inches] thick, will be acceptable as a reusable bag,” the

legislation noted. “...As temporary residents of this Earth, and, in particular, stewards of this Commonwealth, we have a duty to preserve our resources, and to act as guardians for Mother Earth for the benefit of our children and their children.”

“...An estimated 1 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide. This amounts to over one million bags per minute. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, over 380 billion plastic bags, sacks, and wraps are consumed in the U.S. each year,” the legislation added.

DOUBLE

From Page 1

main drivers of the CNMI economy—tourism and gaming—at a nearly complete standstill for an extended period in fiscal year 2019, said the OPA in its single audit on the finances of the NMI government in fiscal year 2018.

“...Typhoon Mangkhut destroyed much of the resources for the island of Rota, and Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the islands of Tinian and Saipan. These disasters had detrimental

effects [on] the CNMI’s economic activity, leaving the two main sectors of our economy [tourism and gaming] at a standstill for the first quarter of [fiscal year 2019],” the OPA report said.

The report noted, though, that, despite these disasters, the CNMI economy remained resilient. “[The CNMI continued] moving forward with investments in infrastructure and disaster aid services to rebuild the economy and the lives of its residents,” the report said.

OPA further noted that the CNMI is “optimistic”

as foreign direct investment is continuing in the tourism sector, with developments in the northern end of Saipan and on Tinian.

“The reopening of established small- and medium-sized businesses after the typhoons stood at 85% in March 2019 and is anticipated to reach completion by the end of the fiscal year,” OPA noted. “Our forecasts for the gaming casino industry remains conservatively steady as this sector shows signs of slight contraction for a short period in the near future.”

The report also recognizes

the emergence of the cannabis industry, which is anticipated to take off in the latter part of fiscal year 2019.

These factors will help “revitalize the CNMI economy and increase the CNMI’s financial resources.”

“The CNMI is optimistic for the year ahead as the continued improvement in infrastructure and economic activity rebounds from the shocking events experienced earlier in the [fiscal] year,” OPA concluded.

For those interested in looking at the 105-page report, visit www.opacnmi.com.

CHAMBER

From Page 1

is not prevented, many fear it would leave the economy in shambles.

“I am hopeful that we can get some type of reprieve so it will allow the businesses and their employees to stay, because [businesses are] most concerned if [their employees] should leave or stay throughout this renewal process,” Palacios said yesterday. “For the most part, most [employers] would like to continue the [workers’] employment, invoking the 240-day [exten-

sion], but we don’t know, so I hope something comes out soon.”

The Chamber conveyed its hope for a reprieve in a letter dated Aug. 26, 2019, to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). Besides an informal conversation about the letter, Palacios said there has been no response from Sablan’s office yet.

Besides the request for a reprieve, the letter also had some recommended amendments to the NMI Workforce Act of 2018, or Public Law 115-218, which the letter described as restrictive.

In an interview with

Saipan Tribune, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente confirmed that her department is aware of the Chamber’s letter to Sablan and concurred with most of its contents.

“We are hoping either the Delegate’s Office or the Governor’s Office can talk to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to do something, because I know they are just following the law. I am just hoping something happens,” she said.

In a letter dated Aug. 17, 2019, an informal group of over 200 CW workers met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to request for a reprieve from

the impending Sept. 30, 2019, deadline, when majority of CW workers are believed to exit the CNMI.

The letter incorporated a request for reprieve and even deferred action for those who are struggling with the U.S. Department of Labor side of the CW petition renewal process. The letter was also reportedly sent to the Washington delegate, but Sablan did not confirm receipt with *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan’s office had been recently publishing updates on the U.S. Department of Labor side of the CW petition renewal process.

PAROLE

From Page 1

consider the parole application of Deleon Guerrero, Bradley said the Office of the Attorney General strongly opposes Deleon Guerrero’s early release, as has served only the minimum amount of time.

Deleon Guerrero was convicted of murder and was sentenced to 30 years in prison. Yet he has only served 10 of his 30-year sentence, Bradley said. “Serving only one-third of his sentence is only the absolute minimum for eligibility of parole,” he added.

Had it not been murder or a less serious crime, granting parole could be possible for the time served, Bradley added, underscoring the seriousness of the case to argue against early release for Deleon Guerrero.

The prosecution’s second point was that Deleon Guerrero had planned the killing, as he had a person with whom he was in contact with while committing the crime and that Deleon Guerrero was aware that Shim possibly had a gun by the counter and had a background in martial arts. “In this case, with the individual being intoxicated and being mitigated to commit the crime under the influence...he still was able to come up with the idea to rob someone and commit murder,” Bradley said.

Deleon Guerrero wore a black ski mask on the night of the murder and hit the victim with a *tangan-tangan* stick on the back of the head several

times, implying that he snuck up to the victim. After murdering the victim, he stole the money in the cash register and fled the scene.

Bradley also pointed out that, as per a Department of Corrections memorandum, Deleon Guerrero committed 13 violations while in prison. Those violations include assault and battery, numerous possessions of cell phones, and others that suggest that he is not taking the degree of his crime seriously.

In his statement to the board, Deleon Guerrero said that he was under the influence of “ice” at the time and had no control over himself.

He argued that he has changed, as he committed the crime while under the influence and has learned his lesson about the risks of drug addiction. His girlfriend, serving as his sponsor, said she believes that he is ready to be released on parole.

“I believe he should be released,” she said. She intends to get Deleon Guerrero back into college and join the workforce if granted parole.

BOP chair Ramon B. Camacho said that he would like to see that Deleon Guerrero take part in numerous counseling agencies such as the Project HOPE and the Community Guidance Center, if granted parole. The BOP will be deliberating on their decision for the entirety of today and tomorrow.

The BOP will also hold further hearings today, as parole applicant Shawn Appleby’s sponsors requested for the hearing to be moved to today.

RE-TRIAL

From Page 2

U.S. government brought this harboring charge because the Tydingcos provided shelter to the child after she was no longer officially allowed to be in the United States.

A federal grand jury previously indicted Lili Tydingco and her husband for allegedly receiving money to harbor two illegal Chinese aliens, including a child they enrolled at a public school.

In June 2016, a federal court jury found Lili Tydingco guilty of one count of harboring an alien and Francisco Tydingco guilty of aiding and

abetting the harboring.

Manglona sentenced Lili Tydingco in December 2016 to 10 months’ imprisonment, with credit for time served. She sentenced Francisco Muna Tydingco to 21 months of imprisonment, with credit for time served.

The Tydingcos appealed to the Ninth Circuit. In 2018, the Ninth Circuit reversed the convictions and remanded the case to the District Court for a new trial.

Last May, a superseding indictment was subsequently filed against Lili Tydingco. The U.S. government, however, dropped the case against Francisco Tydingco. The court granted the motion. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Mobil backs SFA's fishing outreach at Da'ok with donation

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The outreach program of the Saipan Fishermen's Association at the Da'ok Academy got a boost yesterday with a \$2,500 donation from J & MJ Mobil, with the hope that more of the academy's students will learn more about traditional fishing in the CNMI.

The donation is intended to facilitate the association's outreach for the youth through the academy, which is a non-traditional high school.

"It's all about the kids," said SFA president Gene Weaver. "As grownups, we pretty much know the techniques and styles and the different types of fishing, but I think it is important for us to get the kids involved now and show them what we have, what knowledge we have, and just keep passing it on."

The SFA course at the Da'ok Academy is a pilot program launched last June to teach the youth about sustainable fishing and the environment.

Aside from SFA, the students were also taught by representatives of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, and Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety.

With pollution plaguing the ocean and the beaches, part of fishing is understanding that



The Saipan Fishermen's Association receives a \$2,500 donation from J & MJ Mobil that will be used for the SFA's outreach at the Da'ok Academy. IVA MAURIN

everyone must take care of the environment, Weaver said. SFA also teaches traditional fishing to honor the islands' ancestors.

"That's how they lived, by living off the land and the water, and that is what we are trying to teach the...next generation," he said.

Mobil has been supporting SFA's Saipan International Fishing Derby for the past 35 years, and this is their first to support the association's youth program.

Mobil's Anthony Wenceslao said that there are not many programs that actually teach the youth how to fish correctly and safely. "I've seen SFA in their outreach where they actually teach the kids to do it the right way, and follow some of the cultural practices."

Scheduled water service interruptions

There will be an emergency water service interruption in the areas of Mt. Tapochau Road and portions of Chalan Galaide today, Sept. 5, from 7:30am to 2:30pm, to allow water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to perform repairs on a damaged 6-inch water distribution pipe that supplies water to these areas. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water service soon after. As a result of the repair, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community.

CUC said it will continue to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. (PR)

Water service interruption tomorrow

There will be a scheduled water service interruption in Tanapag and San Roque (lower side) tomorrow, Sept. 6, from 8am to 4:30pm. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The purpose of the water interruption is due to two waterline leaks located on the

main road of Tanapag near the Mobil gas station. CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas, Inc. will be making the necessary repairs. (PR)

Water service interruption on Monday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption in the areas of Capital Hill 1200 Block, 1300 Block, Wireless Ridge, Eggi Drive, Marshall Loop and for customers along Capital Hill Isa Drive to the Kagman Mobil gas station on Monday, Sept. 9, from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The purpose of the scheduled water service interruption is to allow CUC's water operations personnel to perform repairs on a damaged main service lateral on Marshall Loop and Kwajelein Avenue on Capitol Hill.

As a result of the waterline repair, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community.

CUC said it will continue to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. (PR)

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IT&E

Women's 'Dress for Success' on Sept. 6

The Women's Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor is hosting a Dress for Success event on Friday, Sept. 6, 2019, from 9am to 1pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe to assist women in preparing for their dream job or career advancement.

According to Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro, special assistant for Women's Affairs, women will be given the opportunity to learn from experts, join mini-workshops and participate in activities from various agencies, organizations and employers in the CNMI.

"The mission is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, education, professional attire or accessories and the de-

velopment tools to help women thrive in work and in life. Our theme is 'Na'i Animu Famalao'an, Schoobwut aw aschoscho' which means to 'Give it your best, ladies.' This will be a fun event, and we have received feedback from many women who have already registered and are very excited," Camacho-Ogumoro said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the event will assist with the overall goal of achieving parity for women seeking employment for the first time and women looking to advance their careers.

"As a father of six, two of [whom] are girls, activities like these help build confidence and provide skills for future career goals and dream jobs. While this is only a portion of

programs available to our community, we hope that this reaches those who need it the most," Torres said.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said he looks toward continued implementation of policies and programs in the government and private sector to help women achieve social, political and economic parity, as mandated by the CNMI Constitution.

"We thank all our stakeholders from WAO, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Marianas College, as well as [the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs'] childcare services for making this event possible. Our goal is for this to become a signature event for the professional women in our community and those look-

ing to break the glass ceiling," Palacios said.

The event is limited to 100 participants and registration forms can be picked up at the CNMI Women's Affairs Office on Capitol Hill, Building No. 1346.

All participants will receive a chance to pick a free new or gently used smart business outfit or accessory.

For more information, call (670) 488-2658 or email: wao.cnmi@gmail.com. (PR)

To apply for REAL ID driver's license, FSM citizens will need I-94, passport

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia who are trying to secure a REAL ID driver's license will now be required to present their FSM passport along with an I-94 form.

The new regulation is embodied in a directive the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued last Sept. 3 relating to the REAL ID Act of 2005 and its subsequent amendment in December 2018. This internal regulation changes the requirements for presenting an identity document in order to receive a REAL ID-compliant driver's license.

FSM citizens will need their FSM passport and an I-94 form when applying for the driver's license, as the new regulation has added these documents to the list of acceptable documents that establish identity for purposes of obtaining a REAL ID driver's license.

U.S. Congress passed the REAL ID Act of 2005 in 2005. It provides requirements for individuals when applying for REAL ID-compliant drivers license and identifications.

While the intent of the U.S. Congress was to exempt FSM citizens and those of the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands from the various requirements of the law, its subsequent implementation by DHS proved to be difficult for the citizens of the three countries. Citizens were subjected to other impediments including issuance of temporary licenses and ID for a renewable term of one year.

In December 2018, the U.S. Congress passed, and U.S. President Donald J. Trump signed, the REAL ID Act Modification for the Freely Associated States Act, an amendment to the 2005 law to further clarify the intent of the law with respect to citizens of the three countries. Citizens, however, became victims in the language of the law, which required visas as one of the three requisites to obtain REAL IDs. Under the terms of the Compact of Free Association, citizens of the FSM, ROP, and RMI may enter the United States visa-free, thus the visa requirement became even more problematic.

On Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019, DHS announced an amendment to its regulations concerning the requirements for presenting an identity document in order to receive a REAL ID driver's license. This amendment adds an FSM passport with an I-94 form to the list of acceptable documents that establish identity.

Specifically, DHS has designated "an unexpired foreign passport and valid Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) as acceptable identity documentation for purposes of obtaining a REAL ID driver's license or identification card for eligible citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic

of the Marshall Islands."

This amendment corrects an earlier regulation that had determined that FSM citizens needed to obtain an Employment Authorization Document in order to establish identity for the purposes of obtaining a REAL ID-compliant driver's license.

This amendment was issued the same day as a second amendment to DHS rules that DHS announced earlier on Tuesday, which clarifies that FSM citizens do not have "temporary lawful status" in the United States, and are therefore eligible to obtain driver's licenses that are valid for up to eight years (which is the same for U.S. citizens).

DHS noted that "it is appropriate to designate this identity documentation for FAS citizens given the unique relationship between the United States and the FAS and considering that to live and work for indefinite periods, FAS citizens are not required to obtain a visa or EAD, which are documents currently required to establish identity for REAL ID purposes. DHS also believes the designation is consistent with the intent of Congress to facilitate the issuance of REAL ID licenses and identification cards to FAS citizens as demonstrated by enactment of the REAL ID Modification Act."

DHS also noted that this amendment was "consistent with the spirit of the [Compact of Free Association]."

FSM President David W. Panuelo said, "I want to thank the U.S. government and the various U.S. agencies that have helped to resolve this issue. I am especially grateful for the FSM citizens in the United States who have advocated for fairness and equality, knowing very well that their lives became affected by this situation. With this DHS directive, we can close this matter and continue to focus on strengthening the special and enduring relationship between the FSM and the United States, particularly as our nations begin dialogue for negotiating our Compact post-2023."

To ensure smooth implementation, Panuelo is directing Ambassador Susaia in Washington D.C. to work with his FAS colleagues to request that DHS inform all Department of Motor Vehicles throughout the United States about this updated regulation, so that citizens of the FAS countries are able to receive their driver's licenses without additional delay or hindrance.

"The United States remains the FSM's first and foremost ally, and it's good to know that the U.S. government has again demonstrated that it can do the right thing," Panuelo said. "Now that this issue is resolved, we can move forward—together."

Panuelo raised the REAL ID issue with U.S. President Donald Trump last May. (PR)

UoG's Demeulenaere wins award, funds for work to protect endemic Guam tree

Else Demeulenaere, associate director of the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability, was recognized with an award for her research and advocacy on the critically endangered *håyun lågu*, or *Serianthes nelsonii*, at the 2019 Botany Conference in Tucson, Arizona.

The conference in late July gathered some 1,200 plant scientists from around the world to network, share their research, and acknowledge some of the most impactful works in the field.

Demeulenaere received the competitive Botanical Advocacy Leadership Grant—an honor given to an individual who helps bridge public policymaking with issues relevant to plant science. The grant includes \$1,000 to help fund the recipient's proposed project.

"I hope to advocate for the need to have more local laws to protect our natural and cultural resources on Guam," she said.

Demeulenaere is pursuing her doctoral degree under an interdisciplinary arrangement with the University of Guam and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She is concurrently conducting phylogenetic research on the *håyun lågu* and an ethnobotanical study—a study of the tree's uses based on traditional cultural knowledge—at Litekyan, also known as Ritidian. She has also provided testimony before the 34th and 35th Guam legislatures about to her research in Northern Guam.

"My involvement and research take root in the social movement to protect Litekyan. The plans to build a live-fire training range complex at Tailalo threaten access to Litekyan, a sacred place, and will fragment a very valuable limestone forest, which is home to many endemic species intrinsically connected to the rich CHamoru culture," Demeulenaere said.

Her proposal, "Bringing Biocultural Diversity to the Forefront of the Political Agenda in Guam," will give her the opportunity to further advocate for endemic plants, cultural practices, and the protection of sacred



From left, Krissa Skogen, co-chair, Botanical Society of America Public Policy Committee; University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability associate director Else Demeulenaere; Andrew Pais, chair, American Society of Plant Taxonomists Public Policy Committee; and Kal Tuominen, co-chair, BSA Public Policy Committee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



From left, Stefanie Ickert-Bond, professor of botany, University of Alaska Fairbanks; University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability associate director Else Demeulenaere; and Pamela Soltis, president, American Society of Plant Taxonomists.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

places like Litekyan at a policy level.

"Else's progress through her doctoral program has helped call attention to the rare *Serianthes nelsonii* and the challenges Guam faces with its repopulation," said UOG assistant professor of Biology Wei Xiao, one of her advisers. "I'm very proud of Else for receiving a prestigious recognition for her research into this unique species."

The Botanical Advocacy Leadership Grant is given annually by the Botanical Society of America and the American Society of Plant

Taxonomists.

"This award highlights the outstanding value of Else's dissertation research. It is an exciting intersection of resolving the genetic nature of one of Guam's charismatic trees, an exploration of the ethnobotany of *Serianthes*, and an advocacy for natural resources in the face of threats from human disturbances," said University of Alaska Fairbanks professor of Botany Stefanie Ickert-Bond, Demeulenaere's adviser and dissertation committee chair. (PR)

Hopwood's return to main campus in the works

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although there is no fixed timeline for it yet, Hopwood Middle School's eventual move back to its main campus in Chalan Piao is in the works. Until then, the school will continue having classes at its temporary campus near the Koblerville Elementary School.

HMS principal Rizalina Liwag said the school's management and officers of the Parent-Teacher Student Association continue to meet with Education Commissioner Glenn Muña about the transitioning process.

"We're meeting with the commissioner every two weeks, or at least once a month to prepare us for the transition back to the main campus," Liwag said.

Liwag said she is aware of the Legislature's interest in getting HMS back to its main campus. The precinct's House representatives, John Paul "JP" Sablan (R-Saipan) and Christina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), have vouched for the campus to be renovated for its students to return.

Liwag said they do not have a definite timeline on when HMS will be transitioned back

to its main campus. In the meantime, Muña has instructed that classes continue being held at the temporary campus, as he wants the Hopwood campus to be made safe and suitable for students before moving them back.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Liwag reported to a committee of the Board of Education last Aug. 22 that the Hopwood campus currently has 19 classrooms that could still be used. However, any plan to hold classes there right

now would result in Hopwood holding double sessions.

Muña earlier stated that he would like to avoid holding double sessions at the Chalan Piao campus as each classroom would have about 47 students and that violates

regulations.

In that meeting, the Hopwood PTSA complained that the temporary campus lacks certain features that would make them suitable for students. PSS also reported that it is expecting about \$24 million

from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the repair and renovation of the main campus. The project is currently on hold as PSS is still waiting for FEMA's approval on the project worksheet for the campus.

MVA woos MICE travel at Beijing workshop

Enticing Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions travel to the Marianas was the goal of the Marianas Visitors Authority's participation in a travel trade event on Aug. 28-29, 2019, in Beijing.

Incentive, and Business Travel and Meetings Workshop China is the leading event for the meetings and events industry in China and the Asia Pacific region.

"IBTM provides a gateway to the Chinese and Asia Pacific meetings, events and incentives market," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "In partnership with our MVA members Century Tours and Impression Tour, we presented the Marianas' many travel resources available to MICE groups, with the goal of getting them to choose our islands

as the venue for their next group event."

So far this fiscal year, the MVA has assisted MICE groups bringing an estimated 5,500 visitors to the Marianas. This figure does include MICE groups who have made their travel arrangements independently of the MVA. Another 400 MICE travelers are expected to visit Saipan later this month.

The IBTM Workshop attracted over 3,400 travel trade representatives, and the MVA met with over 40 MICE organizers, travel agencies, media representatives, and other professionals who had scheduled appointments to learn more about the Marianas. In a presentation on the main stage, MVA's China Travel trade manager Tony Zhang introduced the Marianas as an ideal MICE travel option, detailing the hotels,

conference venues, restaurants, and other available activities for group travel.

The event was also supported by Saipan World Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Saipan Submarine, which provided three tour vouchers as raffle prizes. **(MVA)**



MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority and tourism partners promote the Marianas on Aug. 28, 2019, at the 2019 Incentive, and Business Travel and Meetings Workshop China in Beijing. From left, Judy Li and Meson Pan of Century Tours; MVA Beijing Travel trade manager Tony Zhang; and Eleven Yang and Steve Xiao of Impression Tour.



MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority and tourism partners promote the Marianas at the 2019 Incentive, and Business Travel and Meetings Workshop China in Beijing on Aug. 28-29, 2019.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-033

REQUEST FOR FEE PROPOSAL FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from professional Archaeologist who meets U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan to prepare information, data, and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review with aim of completing Section 106 Review and generating archaeological expectations necessary for the proposed CUC waterline and sewerline projects proposed for FY 19. The selected consultant shall provide necessary assessment within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the proposed waterline and sewerline installation satisfactory to the CUC, United States Environmental Protection Agency and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-033, Request for Fee Proposal for Archaeological Services" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 6, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Engineer for Water Division at email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



MP HOLDINGS LLC dba SAIPAN VEGAS INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

MP HOLDINGS LLC dba SAIPAN VEGAS IS SEEKING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ("EOI") FROM EXPERIENCED RESTAURANT OPERATORS TO LEASE AND OPERATE A BUFFET RESTAURANT AT SAIPAN VEGAS RESORT LOCATION ON MIDDLE RD, CHALAN LAU LAU SAIPAN

**CLOSING DATE OF THE EOI IS 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019.
VENUE OPENING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 2019.**

COMMERCIAL TERMS OF THE LEASE ARE FLEXIBLE AND SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION. CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, THE RESTAURANT IS LOCATED AT SAIPAN VEGAS SECOND FLOOR AT THE NORTHERN END OF MIDDLE RD, CHALAN LAU LAU, AND OFFERS:

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT GUS NOBLE VIA EMAIL gusnoble@hotmail.com OR MOBILE +1 670 484-6050, to arrange an interview to discuss the opportunity.

Symposium informs, empowers Guam Guard families



GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Spouses, children and members of the Guam National Guard pose for a photo after attending the Annual Family and Youth Symposium last Aug. 24, at the Dusit Thani Resort in Tumon, Guam.

The Guam National Guard's Family Programs Office hosted a Family Symposium for spouses and family members of airmen and soldiers last Aug. 24, at the Dusit Thani Resort Hotel in Tumon.

The symposium's theme, "Empowering our Family Readiness Groups," provided briefings on topics, such as Reintegration and Reconnection, Life Skills and Team Building, Social Media and Operational Security, the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families, Strong Bonds, the Thrifty Savings Plan, the Blended Retirement Plan, Financial Planning for the future; Transition Assistance, current and upcoming training and deployment information, and The Mighty-eR Spouse.

"Don't forget that you are

valued and the mission won't be successful without the 'Mighty Spouse.' You make it happen, but we need to take time for ourselves," said Delores Naputi, a work/life specialist, from the Airman and Family Readiness Center at the Andersen Air Force Base.

There were also resource tables by Citizen Soldiers for Life, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Andersen Family Programs, The Navy Fleet and Family Services, New Beginnings and several financial institutions offering Veteran Home Loan Services.

In addition to the family briefings, separate breakouts for children, 12 years old and under, and teenagers, 13 to 18 years old, offered resiliency training, dating violence awareness, financial literacy, emotion-



Amy Baleto, Child and Youth Program director for the Guam National Guard, works with the teenage group, to plan upcoming events, during the Annual Family and Youth Symposium last Aug. 24, at the Dusit Thani Resort in Tumon.

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

al health and service learning.

"This event, and the Guard's youth program in general, is great because I have been able to meet new friends and reach out to others who have experienced

or are experiencing challenges of having our parents deployed and gone for long periods of time," said Haani Losongco, daughter of SFC Joshua Losongco, from the Guam Army National



GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Spouses of Guam National Guard soldiers and airmen, talk with resource providers while attending the Annual Family and Youth Symposium last Aug. 24, at the Dusit Thani Resort in Tumon.

Guard's GUARNG Element.

Devin Santos agreed, "It is also a great outlet for us because we all learn, together, some strategies in dealing with our feelings about the separation and the time

goes by faster." Devin is the son of Lt. Col. David Santos, who is the commander, Guam Army National Guard 1st-294th Infantry Regiment, and currently deployed to the Sinai. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

SEPTEMBER 5, 2000

CUC wants gov't to settle \$12M

The legislative proposal to transfer responsibility of paying government utilities to each department and agency is a welcome move, but the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation still insists on settling unpaid bills amounting to over \$12 million. CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez said the move by the Legislature will help in cutting power and water consumption of public offices because agencies and departments will each have to pay what they use. The government-owned utility corporation has been prodding the Tenorio administration to meet its mounting debt. At present, it owes CUC over \$12 million—and still counting—which represents utilities costs for all departments and agencies from as far back as late 1997.

Carriers get \$181K from CPA's airline incentive program

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has granted CNMI signatory airlines close to \$200,000 in total incentives under a program that gives substantial discount in airport charges to carriers that are able to increase their average monthly traffic count. CPA comptroller Dave S. Demapan disclosed that implementation of the ports authority's Airline Incentive Program has translated to about \$149,000 in total savings to foreign carriers

during the period that stretches between October 1, 1999 to July 31, 2000. Between May and September 1999, international airline companies servicing the Northern Marianas received an aggregated amount of \$23,000 in total discount from the incentive program.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2004

Local GOP is first nationally recognized party

The U.S. Republican Party, one of the two major political parties in the country, has recognized its CNMI counterpart, boosting the local party's bid in the next Commonwealth elections. The CNMI Republican Party now expects to have gained advantage in local elections, since it could tap the support of the national party and its members. The recognition allows the local Republican Party to field three voting delegates to the group's 2008 national convention that would determine who the next presidential standard bearer would be. Besides projecting an advantage for the GOP in local elections, Callaghan said the governor would have expanded clout in garnering congressional and federal support on policies relevant to the CNMI.

CNMI expects to net \$10K in Motrin settlement

The CNMI stands to receive some \$10,000 from two U.S. drug manufacturers in a settlement of a federal law enforcement action that accused the companies of antitrust violations that resulted in the destruction of market competition of a certain over-the-counter generic brand. In a media statement, Attorney General Pamela Brown disclosed that the CNMI, along with 49 other U.S. states and territories, reached a settlement with Perrigo and Alpharma. The two companies are the only Federal Drug Administration-approved manufacturers of the generic over-the-counter liquid

suspension Ibuprofen, a drug product used to temporarily reduce fever and relieve minor aches and pains in children.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2005

CPA gets grant for new incinerator

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has received another federal grant for the purchase of a new incinerator. The U.S. Department of the Interior released a \$183,000 grant to help the ports authority buy an incinerator for the Port of Saipan. The federal agency earlier issued \$250,000 for the procurement of the same equipment for the Saipan International Airport. The Interior Department is requiring CPA to match the grants with a similar amount. The Saipan seaport currently does not have an incinerator. CPA's incinerator at the Saipan airport has itself been a subject of a citation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In May 2005, EPA ordered the ports authority to repair or replace its incinerator at the airport.

Anatahan showing no signs of activity

After about eight months of continuous eruptive activity, Anatahan's volcano rested beginning Saturday and showed no signs of activity, according to the U.S. Geological Survey and the Emergency Management Office. The agencies said the eruption appeared to have stopped between 7:01pm Saturday and 9:08am Sunday. The agencies based that finding on remote sensing data, since all seismic stations on Anatahan have been offline. They said the last visible ash from the volcano was Saturday night. The Washington Volcanic Ash Advisory Center and the Air Force Weather Agency have ceased issuing ash advisories. This is the first time that the USGS and the EMO reported no volcanic activity on Anatahan since eruptions began to escalate in January this year.

DHS proposes \$10 fee for H-1B petition filers

The Department of Homeland Security announced yesterday a notice of proposed rulemaking that would require petitioners seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions to pay a \$10 fee for each electronic registration they submit to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Because USCIS must expend resources to implement and maintain the H-1B registration system, and because USCIS operations are funded by fees collected for adjudication and naturalization services, DHS is proposing an appropriate, nominal fee for submitting H-1B registrations to recover those costs.

On Jan. 31, DHS published a

final rule requiring petitioners seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption, to first electronically register with USCIS during a designated registration period, unless we suspend that requirement. We also stated in that final rule that we were suspending the registration requirement for the fiscal year 2020 cap season, to complete required user testing of the new H-1B registration system and otherwise ensure the system and process work correctly.

In that final rule, DHS also reordered the cap selection process to increase the chance of selecting petitioners with

a master's degree or higher from a U.S. institution of higher education. Preliminary data shows that the number

of petitions for U.S. advanced degree holders selected toward the FY 2020 numerical allocations increased by more

than 11% over the year before.

H-1B visas allow skilled workers in certain specialty occupations to temporarily live and work in the United States.

Additional information on

the proposed rule is available in the *Federal Register*. Public comments will be accepted from Sept. 4 (when the proposed rule publishes in the *Federal Register*) through Oct. 4. **(PR)**

Merante, Li named to FDU dean's list

MADISON, NJ—Mark Samuel Merante and Lima Li, both from Saipan and students at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham Campus in Madison, New Jersey, have been named to the dean's list for the spring 2019 semester.

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must carry a 3.2 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0 and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 letter-graded hours (four courses).

FDU's Florham Campus is located on the former Vanderbilt-Twombly estate in suburban Morris County. FDU is New Jersey's largest private university and features more than 100 liberal arts and professional degree programs, two international campuses, dozens of partnerships with international institutions and special programs and status within the United Nations. For more information, go to www.fdu.edu. **(PR)**



The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation led by chair Rep. John Paul Sablan, center standing, met Tuesday morning with Board of Education chair Janice Marie A. Tenorio, center seated; Education Commissioner Glenn P. Muna, seated right, and some of the PSS leadership team to assure the Public School System of its support.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Top leaders of both the Public School System and the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation met yesterday on Capital Hill to talk about giving PSS more funds to ensure the smooth resumption of classes.

Public school classes started last Tuesday to begin school year 2019-2020.

The delegation reassured public education officials that it will earmark \$3 million to PSS to pay for critical vendor services and other needs.


At the meeting, which was called yesterday at 11:30am by delegation chair Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan), both Board of Education chair Janice Marie A. Tenorio and

Education Commissioner Glenn P. Muña thanked the delegation for working with them in the last two weeks to help address the funding needs of PSS.

The meeting was also attended by delegation vice chair Rep. Roman Benavente (R-Saipan) and Speaker Blas Jonathan Atao (R-Saipan), Vice Speaker

Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Reps. Ivan Alafonso Blanco (R-Saipan), Joel C. Camacho (R-Saipan), Luis John Castro (R-Saipan), and Jose Itibus (R-Saipan).

Tenorio and Muña also intend to reach out to the Rota and Tinian legislative delegations for funding assistance. **(PR)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-024

W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing laterals, the abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and the elimination of the old W-5 wet well and the W-6 sewer lift station.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 7, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-024, W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 27, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of **fifteen percent (15%)** of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.


This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 16, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, and Ms. Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior, via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-028

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and replacement or repair of the effluent launder box; removal of the old circular clarifier mechanism and sections of the effluent launder box; replacement of the RFP weirs and scum baffle, installation of a new outer scum baffle; installation of new area lighting, wires, and conduit, and disconnect boxes; installation of a new process water spray system for foam control. The work shall include the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier; routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period; and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on August 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. **One (1) original and Five (5) copies** of the bid **MUST** be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-028, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) September 6, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of **fifteen (15%)** percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of **one hundred (100%)** percent and a Performance Bond of **one hundred (100%)** percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Fight these fires



A Brazilian soldier takes a quick rest before resuming to fight fires at the Nova Fronteira region in Novo Progresso, Brazil, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019.

AP

The photos are searing. The statistics are staggering. The costs are incalculable. The need for action is clear and present. The abdication of leaders who have the power to act is tragic, and cannot stand.

We speak of 40,000 fires that have raged across the precious Amazon rainforest in Brazil so far this year, and of a criminal failure to respond by President Jair Bolsonaro, a Trumpian populist who once nicknamed himself “captain chainsaw.”

The rainforest is not only home to 1 million people and 3 million species of plants and animals. It is the natural repository of a quarter of the carbon dioxide our planet currently produces. In case you’ve been encased in a block of ice these past two decades, carbon dioxide emissions drive climate change.

Some forest fires are natural; this year brought a dramatic spike, likely brought on by deforestation and Bolsonaro-incited arson, to clear land for cattle ranching. Bolsonaro does worse than yawn; he baselessly calls his critics firestarters, and says his government lacks the resources to put them out.

Recognizing the emergency, other countries’ leaders are using their economic leverage to try to save the Amazon. French President Emmanuel Macron threatens to scuttle a major trade deal.

If the U.S. president had the wisdom to take a break from denigrating Denmark and escalating a trade war with China, he might make a promised U.S.-Brazil free trade deal contingent on swift action to save a vital swath of Earth.

Then again, if Donald Trump had a modicum of wisdom, he wouldn’t be Donald Trump.

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Hurricanes: Times have changed

By JOHN M. CRISP
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

As I write, Dorian, a formidable Category 5 hurricane, is slowly approaching Florida’s east coast; by the time you read this, you will probably know whether Dorian hit Florida or whether it skewed north for a landfall on the coast of another hapless state.

I have considerable sympathy for fellow citizens who live in Dorian’s path. I’ve lived nearly all of my life in hurricane country. I know the wary eye that coastal inhabitants keep fixed on the tropics during the six months of hurricane season.

Most years the odds work out in your favor, but the worry that this particular year could be the one that leads a disastrous storm to your community never entirely goes away until the cold fronts begin to blow through in November.

But long-time inhabitants of hurricane country learn to accommodate themselves to the threat and generally accept hurricanes as just another hazard in a dangerous world.

An illustrative anecdote: On Sept. 11, 1961, Carla, a category 5 hurricane ranked as the most severe ever to hit the mainland, made landfall 50 miles southeast of my hometown, Victoria, Texas, with wind speeds as high as 175 mph.

To my three young brothers and me, Carla was an adventure. Only in retrospect can I imagine the anxiety that it must have caused my parents, who, as far as I know, never considered evacuation. Nearly everything they owned, including a home for four youngsters, depended on our modest frame house’s capacity to withstand the ferocity of one of the worst storms ever to hit the coast.

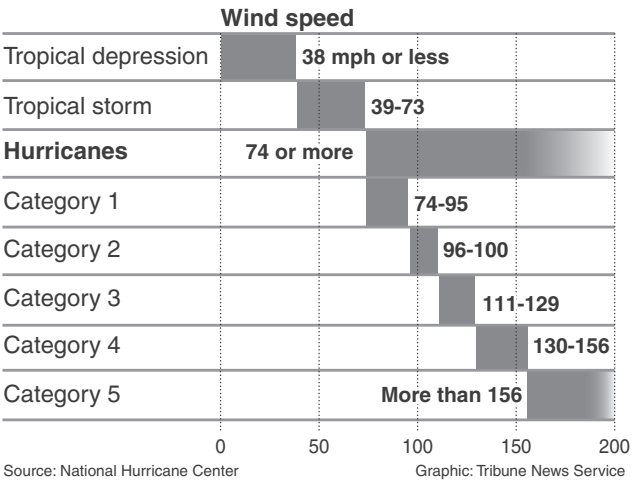
During the night before landfall, an ominous knocking developed somewhere in the house. When my dad looked into the attic, he could see the edge of the roof lifting off the framing enough to reveal the howling storm outside. We four boys watched from the rain-pelted windows while my dad held the ladder as my mom — she was better with a hammer — nailed the roof down in a blowing gale, probably saving the house.

By the time Carla’s eye skirted a few miles east of Victoria, the storm had lost some of its power — the local weather station’s anemometer blew away at 114 mph. The house survived with the loss of only the TV antenna, the basketball goal and all of the shingles sheared cleanly off the north side of the roof.

But this close call never planted in my parents’ minds the thought of moving away from the coast. Nor did it prevent me from living for 29 years in Corpus Christi, Texas, a low-lying coastal city subject to hurricanes.

A few times, I had to board up and evacuate, but the city never

Tropical cyclones



received a direct hit. Two years ago I moved to central Texas, leaving the threat of hurricanes behind. I packed the last of my belongings and left Corpus Christi on Aug. 24, 2017. The next day hurricane Harvey made landfall 30 miles east of the city. I’ve been lucky my whole life.

But, really, what I’m describing is a bygone era, when we could think of hurricanes as acts of God or nature, and luck could provide 29 hurricane-free years in a vulnerable coastal city.

Things have changed. In 1961, most coastal inhabitants could reasonably evacuate, if they chose, before a hurricane like Carla. In 2005, as hurricane Rita closed in, my brother and his wife spent more than 24 hours evacuating from the Houston area before giving up, having covered fewer than 60 miles. A hundred people died in their vehicles. Overdevelopment has made the coast a much more dangerous place to live.

So has climate change. Science shows clearly what common sense says is obvious. Heat revs up hurricanes; as the ocean water warms, hurricanes generate more energy and carry more moisture. Carla’s heaviest rainfall was under 18 inches; Harvey dropped close to 60 inches on parts of Houston. Rising sea levels don’t help, either.

Once we could blame hurricanes on providence or nature; now human activity is making them worse. How much worse remains to be seen. In the next few days, may you fare well, coastal citizens.

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcol-umns@gmail.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

US-China trade war damage could last decades

When it comes to international trade, China hasn't always played by the rules. So the question begs: How do you change that behavior? Engaging in a trade war by imposing tariffs isn't ideal. To save face, Chinese President Xi Jinping must appear strong and that means responding to U.S. tariff increases with Chinese tariff increases. This tit-for-tat strategy, which escalated again on Sept. 1, is increasing volatility and uncertainty, while hurting economic growth. But it gets worse.

As America's exports to China get shut out, our allies and trading partners are filling the gap. For example, as U.S. soybean exports to China have dropped due to retaliatory tariffs, Brazilian soybean exports there have surged. Canada, Mexico, Australia, Japan and others also have benefited. These new trading relationships are unlikely to be temporary.

As reported by Xinhua, China's official news agency, Han Jun, China's vice-minister of agriculture and rural affairs, recently said: "Many countries have the will and ability to replace the U.S. presence in the Chinese agricultural market. If other countries become reliable suppliers to China, it will be difficult for the United States to regain the position."

President Donald Trump's unpredictable actions may be textbook negotiating tactics. But they have Chinese customers questioning whether they can rely on American suppliers, which they increasingly view as unreliable partners due to the volatility in the commercial relationship, says the U.S.-China Business Council (USCBC), an organization of approximately 200 American companies doing business in China. And the damage is mounting.

While 49% of respondents to a recent USCBC survey said they lost sales in China due to retaliatory tariffs, 37% said they lost sales due to their Chinese partners' concerns about doing business with American companies, a seven-fold increase over 2018. Even if the trade war ended tomorrow, Chinese concerns moving forward likely will call for strategies to play it safe by reducing dependence on U.S. companies.

Trump's go-it-alone tariff approach is proving very worrisome at best. And his statement, "trade wars are good, and easy to win," couldn't be further from the truth. When faced with Trump's tariffs, virtually all America's allies and trading partners have responded in kind, often targeting U.S. agricultural exports. Peter Navarro, Trump's trade adviser, grossly miscalculated what would follow when in 2018 he said, "I don't believe there's any country in the world that will retaliate for the simple reason that we are the biggest and most lucrative market in the world."

What is a better strategy to deal with the Chinese? Working closely with our European, Asian and other friends around the world to establish a united front against China would likely prove more effective. And for the most part, we have similar interests with regard to curtailing Chinese bad behavior.

the damage caused to clean water, air, much less to the threat to our existence. The methane regulation, the Department of Interior announced, was "unnecessarily burdensome" to the multi-billion dollar natural gas industry. The easing of methane rules, Trump's EPA estimates, will save the oil and gas industry \$17 million to \$19 million a year. It will cost far more than that in contributing to the acceleration of global warming.

Ironically, the big oil and gas companies oppose the deregulation. They are trying to sell natural gas as the environmentally friendly transition fuel from coal, in an era when they understand global warming will make the transition inevitable. Methane leaks foul their story. Trump will make it harder for them to sell themselves in the future.

The United States has been taken by surprise by enemies in the past—think Pearl Harbor or 9/11. We've had our share of incompetent generals and foolish leaders—think of the North's Civil War generals before Grant or the folly of the Iraq debacle.

But we've never had a commander in chief committed to making a clear and present danger to our security worse. We've never had one so divorced from the reality he faces. Trump argues that his deregulation is unleashing growth and prosperity. But his economy has grown no faster than that of Barack Obama, who was moving the country to meet the challenge of climate change.

By **JOHN MANZELLA**

Tribune News Service



John Manzella, founder of the Manzel-laReport.com, is a speaker, author and nationally syndicated columnist on global business and economic trends. Contact him at JohnManzella.com.

But establishing a united front at this point would be difficult since Trump has either threatened many of our friends with protectionist measures or weakened the relationships. Nevertheless, this option may still be the best way forward.

The administration's desire to persuade China to stop subsidizing its state-owned enterprises, enforce intellectual property protection, eliminate trade restrictions on U.S. firms, and stop demanding U.S. companies hand over technology in exchange for Chinese market access are important goals. But implementing the wrong strategy is severely hurting those it is intended to help.

American farmers and exporters have spent decades developing the Chinese market. Losing those markets is costly and difficult to bear. But trying to win them back may be extremely challenging, if not impossible at least in the foreseeable future. It's time for the administration to take a different approach.

In denial of climate change

Last month was the hottest month in recorded history. Catastrophic climate change is already costing tens of billions in damage, displacing more and more people, causing more and more casualties from California fires to the increasing force of hurricanes, the spread of desert and drought. It is real, accelerating and poses what literally is an existential threat.

And the commander in chief of the most powerful nation in the world remains in denial. Trump not only denies the threat posed by manmade climate change, he consciously, purposefully and perversely works to accelerate it.

This week, the administration announced that it would roll back regulations to limit methane emissions from natural gas sites on public lands. Methane is a potent gas, more destructive than carbon dioxide in trapping the earth's heat, according to the EPA. It now represents about 10 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions—but the administration is intent on making that worse.

Trump's rationale is consistent. He hates all things Obama, particularly in the area of the environment, so he's made reversing Obama's achievements—leaving the Paris Climate Accord, rolling back auto mileage standards, and weakening greenhouse gas controls—a first priority. He is ideologically committed to deregulation, claiming that it will unleash growth, and blind to

By **JESSE JACKSON**

Tribune News Service



You can write to the Rev. Jesse Jackson in care of this newspaper or by email at jjackson@rainbowpush.org. Follow him on Twitter @RevJJackson.

The scientific consensus is that we have about 10 years to move dramatically to limit greenhouse gases and transition to renewable energy. Even now, we face accelerating natural disasters triggered or worsened by global warming. Donald Trump wants us to ignore the human and financial costs of this present threat and celebrate deregulation that will save the natural gas companies what to them is chump change. Never in our history has our national security been so threatened by the very president charged with defending it.

The perversity will continue until Americans in large numbers—spurred by a younger generation that understands that their future is at risk—rise up and demand action and sweep out those standing in the way. That is already long overdue.

Epstein was allowed to game the system

The Jeffrey Epstein case establishes beyond a doubt that if you're a sexual predator, it pays to be a rich and connected sexual predator.

Epstein, now dead of an apparent suicide before his accusers had their day in court, worked the system and benefited from advantages and breaks unimaginable to anyone who didn't jet around with influential friends.

The multimillionaire financier who lived in Palm Beach, Florida, and Manhattan, N.Y., used his resources to build a network of sexual predation and then used his resources to escape meaningful legal punishment. Even after registering as a sex offender, he lived a life of ease and glamour unavailable to even most of the 1 percent.

Epstein was the Jay Gatsby of sexual abuse, relying on his wealth to perfume over what should have been the overwhelming smell of sulfur.

He hired a highly credentialed, aggressive legal team that wooed and overawed prosecutors who were supposed to hold him accountable for his crimes. A decade ago, the state prosecutor in Florida took a pass, and former Trump Labor Secretary Alex Acosta, the U.S. attorney for Southern Florida at the time, applied the minimal possible sanction while affording Epstein every possible consideration.

In a letter explaining his handling of the case, Acosta described "a year-long assault on the prosecution and the prosecutors." The proper response of an office invested with the awesome powers of government, arrayed against a lowlife and his hired guns, should have been to double down. Instead, Acosta's office buckled.

If any of the nameless victims had been rich or famous themselves and able to hire an Alan Dershowitz or a Jay Lefkowitz, the result surely would have been different. A couple of years ago, Taylor Swift pursued, on principle, an assault case against a man who groped her at a meet-and-greet, and won a symbolic \$1. But none of the Epstein's victims were anything like Taylor Swift. They were selected for abuse—because they were vulnerable. And failed by their government—because they were vulnerable.

Having minimized Epstein's offense in Florida, his lawyers got busy minimizing the consequences. They somehow convinced a prosecutor in the office of Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance to petition a judge to lower Epstein's sex-offender status. The shocked judge rejected it out of hand.

This held true to the pattern—all mistakes always worked in Epstein's favor.

It was a mistake that Epstein got to leave 12 hours a day, six

By **RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

days a week, while briefly in jail in Palm Beach so he could pursue his "work" (including bilking one of his clients).






It was a mistake that New York City police didn't enforce the requirement that Epstein check in every 90 days as required under his sex-offender status.

All the while, Epstein continued to socialize with fancy people, buying his way into their company and entertaining the great and the good at his New York City mansion. It was only when the Miami Herald unearthed the enormity of his crimes that Epstein's world began to unravel.

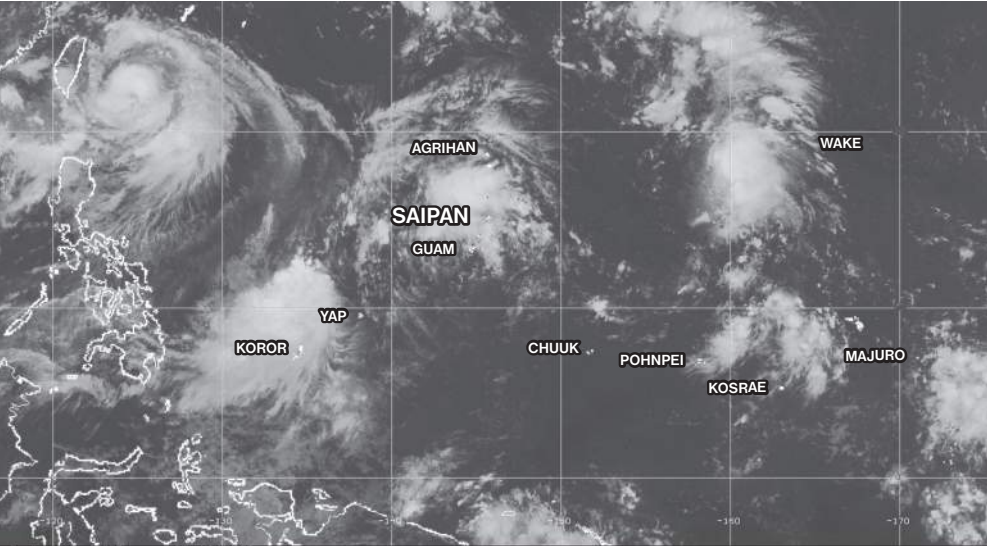
It shouldn't be possible for a hideous monster to game the American system of justice, but it's exactly what Jeffrey Epstein did, from loathsome beginning to unforgivable end.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms in the morning, then scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
88°78°	89°78°	88°78°	88°78°	88°78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:05 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show that showers and thunderstorms have continued to develop along a line of convergence north of the surface trough lifting northward through the Marianas. In addition, upper-level westerly winds have helped to back-build deep convection from west to east. The slow moving trough is expected to lift up to near Saipan later today which should cause showers to taper around mid-afternoon.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 75°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Thunderstorm	55° / 50°	
Beijing	Sunny	93° / 64°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°	
London	Showers	66° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	91° / 72°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Rain	55° / 46°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 64°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	64° / 46°	
Busan	Thunderstorm	82° / 77°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	84° / 64°	
Salem	Sunny	94° / 66°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	67° / 57°	
Seoul	Showers	84° / 75°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	73° / 65°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:25 AM	LOW TIDE	0.28	
12:56 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73	
6:38 PM	LOW TIDE	1.03	
-	-	-	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:31 AM	11:16 PM	-
Friday	12:27 PM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:04 AM	1:22 PM
Sunday	-	12:55 AM	2:15 PM
Monday	-	1:46 AM	3:05 PM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 15, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily				
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily				
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily				

Business

NMTI graduate now runs Saipan Food Express

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Finishing a basic culinary course at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute has motivated Saipan Food Express manager and chef Daryll Metran to try different ingredients, herbs, and spices that go into the different ethnic cuisines that they serve at the restaurant.

“Saipan Food Express is a family run business that my father started in 2017 and this inspired me to take up culinary course. All the things that I learned from NMTI, I apply it at the restaurant,” he said.

“We have always been taught to set standards and meet expectations wherever we are and these principles are applied at Saipan Food Express because it is hard to find that combination in other restaurants these days,” he added.

Saipan Food Express is known for serving fusion food



Saipan Food Express manager and chef Daryll Metran serves fresh dishes using local vegetables and other produce.

and this is true with the different lunch menus they have every day.

“Mondays we serve Filipino food. Tuesdays is al-

lotted to Asian cuisine from Korea, China, and Thailand. Wednesdays we serve Italian and Mexican food and this is a favorite of our local cus-

tomers. Thursdays we serve a mix of Chamorro and Filipino food. Fridays we serve Japanese food and Saturdays we serve a mix of dishes from the themes during the week,” Metran said.

“The variety of dishes gives us a chance to use various local produce that are in season. We always serve our food fresh as we source our ingredients from local farmers,” Metran added.

Lunch buffet comes with



Saipan Food Express’ salad bar can be enjoyed ala carte or buffet style.

unlimited iced tea all for only \$9.99. They also have 1-choice lunch set at \$4.25 and 2-choice lunch set at \$6.25. According to Metran, what also sets Saipan Food Express apart from other restaurants is their salad bar.

“We have the salad bar to encourage the community to eat healthy and to have a ‘hotel kind of setting’ wherein aside from the main course, there is a salad bar that they can start their meal with or serve as a side dish. The choices in the salad bar are well prepared and thought of,” Metran said.

“People can actually come

here and just go for the salad bar buffet for only \$6... so we cater to people who want to try different kinds of dishes in one sitting and also people who are on a diet that’s why our salad bar is there because health is wealth,” Metran added.

Saipan Food Express is located at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai. They are open from Monday to Saturday, 10:30am-2pm lunch, and ala carte dinner 5:30p-9pm. They also do catering services for any occasion for minimum of 20 people at \$12.50 per person. For more information, call (670) 233-3277.

Walmart to stop some ammo sales, ask to not open carry guns

NEW YORK (AP)—Walmart says it will stop selling handgun and short-barrel rifle ammunition, while requesting that customers not openly carry firearms in its stores, even where state laws allow it.

The announcement comes just days after a mass shooting claimed seven lives in Odessa, Texas, and follows back-to-back shootings last month, one of them at a Walmart store.

The Bentonville, Arkansas-based discounter said Tuesday it will stop selling handgun ammunition as well as short-barrel rifle ammunition, such as the .223 caliber and 5.56 caliber used in military style weapons, after it runs out of its current inventory.

It will also discontinue handgun sales in Alaska. Walmart stopped selling handguns in the mid-1990s, with the exception of Alaska. The latest move marks its complete exit from that business and allows it to focus on hunting rifles and related ammunition only.

“In a complex situation lacking a simple solution, we are trying to take constructive

steps to reduce the risk that events like these will happen again,” according to a memo by Walmart’s CEO Doug McMillon circulated to employees Tuesday afternoon. “The status quo is unacceptable.”

The retailer is further requesting that customers refrain from openly carrying firearms at its Walmart and Sam’s Club stores unless they are law enforcement officers. However, it said that it won’t be changing its policy for customers who have permits for concealed carry. Walmart says it will be adding signage in stores to inform customers of those changes.

Last month, a gunman entered a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, killing 22 people. The gunman used an AK-style rifle—one that Walmart already bans the sale of—in the deadliest shooting in the company’s history. Texas became an open carry state in 2016, allowing people to openly carry firearms in public.

Walmart’s moves will reduce its market share of ammunition from around 20% to a range of about 6% to 9%, according to Tuesday’s memo. About half of its more

than 4,750 U.S. stores sell firearms, or around 2% of all U.S. firearms. Most firearms sales are done through thousands of unaffiliated gun shops or gun shows, not big retail chains.

A number of gun control activists praised Walmart’s moves, while gun manufacturers such as Vista Outdoors and Smith & Wesson parent company American Outdoor Brands Corp. saw their shares fall.

Other companies have responded to public pressure to restrict gun sales. Dick’s Sporting Goods announced in March it would stop selling firearms and ammunition at 125 of its 700-plus locations. Kroger’s said last year that it would stop selling firearms and ammunition at its Fred Meyer stores in the Pacific Northwest. Kroger joined Walmart Tuesday in asking customers not to openly carry their guns when they visit its stores.

But supporters of stricter gun laws say Walmart’s latest steps should have an outsized influence because of its clout, sending a strong message to Congress as well as other corporations.

United Airlines invites teams to tow line in fight against cancer

GUAM—The United Airlines Plane Pull Event Committee, along with American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care, announced yesterday that the registration is extended until Tuesday, Sept. 10, for the 14th Annual Plane Pull Event. Event organizers are encouraging the community to join this annual charity event as a team or supporter.

United welcomes the public to join them at this family-friendly fundraising event that equally benefits American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care. Teams of 25 members each compete in two divisions—men’s and co-ed—to pull a United Boeing 737 aircraft, weighing 141,000 lbs, 12 feet in the fastest time. The Boeing 737 aircraft is 129 feet long, 41

feet high and 124 feet wide.

Sam Shinohara, United’s managing director of Airport Operations for Asia/Pacific said, “We are proud to be hosting the 14th Annual United Plane Pull event, which brings our community together to raise funds for the fight against cancer. We do this each year, because each and every one of our families has been affected by cancer. We invite teams to join us as we ‘tow the line’ to raise money for American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care so they can continue to support our survivors and warriors.”

The 2018 Plane Pull event raised close to \$25,000, which directly and equally benefitted the event’s beneficiaries, American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care. The annual Plane Pull event, which is organized and sponsored by United employees, has attracted more than 11,000 participants throughout the past 13 years and has raised more than \$340,000 for the local charities.

Interested teams can call (671) 635-1126 or send an email to planepull@rims-guam.com to request a registration packet. Deadline to enter has been extended to Sept. 10. (PR)

» Registration extended for the annual Plane Pull event scheduled for Sept. 14

<div>STOCK</div> <div>PORTFOLIO</div> <div></div>	LEADING INDICATORS			EXCHANGE RATES			
	DOW 26,118.02 -285.26 1.08%	S&P 2,906.27 -20.19 0.69%	NASDAQ 7,874.16 -88.72 1.11%	Australian Dollar	1.4760	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8437
				British Pound	0.8262	Indian Rupee	71.4949
				Canadian Dollar	1.3324	Japanese Yen	106.0170
				Chinese Yuan	7.0411	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1640
				Euro	0.9110	New Zealand Dollar	1.5790
						Philippine Peso	51.1087
						Russian Ruble	66.7483
						Singapore Dollar	1.3895
						South Korean Won	1189.58
						Swiss Franc	0.9867
						Taiwan Dollar	30.8266
						Thailand Baht	30.5475



TRUCKLOAD STORE direct from KMART

STORE HOURS: WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 11AM-8PM • SATURDAY 9AM-8PM • SUNDAY 11AM-6PM • AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS!



IRON MAN
SPIN MOP SET
WITH 4 TOPS

\$17⁹⁵



4SGM
EAZZ 47"
WOODEN
PUSH
BROOM

\$5⁹⁵



\$14⁹⁵



TRAMPOLINE
140CM

\$79⁹⁵



\$259⁹⁵

LAWN MOWER
21" GAS

\$259⁹⁵

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WARDROBE
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ESSENTIAL HOME KENDALL
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Nation

Floridians hope Dorian's economic impact will be temporary

Hurricane Dorian is losing strength as it churns closer to the Florida coast, and that's bringing some cautious relief to the state's big tourism industry.

By midday Tuesday, Dorian had been downgraded to a Category 2 hurricane, and forecasts were lessening the threat of a direct hit on Florida.

Still, more than 2 million people in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas had been warned to evacuate.

Parts of the Walt Disney World resort in Orlando, Florida, closed early on Tuesday. Airports in Orlando, Palm Beach and several smaller cities remained closed, and most flights in Fort Lauderdale were scrubbed too. Florida accounted for most of the 1,800 U.S. flights canceled by mid-afternoon in the East.

"It generally looks like we dodged a bullet," Sean Snaith, director of the economic forecasting institute at the University of Central Florida, said Tuesday. "These temporary shutdowns have some effect, but it's not going to move the needle in terms of employment or economic growth."

Dorian caused catastrophic flooding and at least five deaths in the Bahamas.

But the National Hurricane



AP
Brandon Ennis runs away from waves caused by Hurricane Dorian crashing over the jetty of the Jupiter inlet, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019, in Jupiter, Fla.

Center reduced the threat of a direct hit on Florida and its \$1 trillion economy, the fourth-largest in the country behind California, Texas and New York. Instead, the storm was expected to brush close to South Carolina and maybe North Carolina too on Thursday or Friday.

Even as Dorian weakened approaching the U.S. mainland, other storms are forming in the Atlantic, and there could be additional powerful hur-

ricanes this fall. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recently raised its forecast for the likelihood of an above-normal hurricane season, including two to four major hurricanes—winds above 110 mph—through November.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that hurricanes cause about \$28 billion a year in damage in the U.S., and since 2005, the government has borne about 60% of

the cost, or \$18 billion a year.

It's difficult to predict where any particular storm will make landfall, but hurricanes are growing more damaging partly because of increased development in coastal areas.

Maria and Irma, the back-to-back hurricanes in the Caribbean and Florida in 2017, caused \$140 billion in damage. Hurricane Harvey flooded Houston that same year

at a cost of \$125 billion. The most damaging hurricane in U.S. history remains Katrina, in 2005, which flooded New Orleans and killed more than 1,800 people.

Florida's tourism industry has taken gut punches before and bounced back. In the first six months of this year, the state saw a record 68.9 million visitors, a 6% increase over the same period last year, according

to the governor's office.

"Florida has continued to see visitation numbers break records year after year, whether it's in the wake of hurricanes or the Zika virus or red tides," Snaith said. "These events aren't great for marketing, but promoters in the (tourism) industry get out in front of stuff like that and try to erase any temporary damage."

Visit Florida, the state's tourism agency, has been promoting travel to parts of the state, including the Gulf Coast, that are not under hurricane threat.

The storm's threat prompted organizers to move a major college football game, Boise State against Florida State, from Jacksonville to Tallahassee, about 160 miles to the west. That hurt tourism in Jacksonville over the Labor Day weekend, although presumably businesses in Tallahassee got a boost. The tourism agency Visit Jacksonville said it was prepared to help local tourism businesses "get back up and running quickly."

Flames blocked escape for 34 divers on boat, officials say

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—Flames roared through a boat of sleeping scuba divers so quickly that it appears none of the 34 people below deck could escape, authorities said Tuesday as they ended their search without finding anyone who was missing still alive from the Labor Day tragedy off the Southern California coast.

It's not known what started the fire early Monday aboard the Conception, which carried scuba diving enthusiasts on a three-day excursion. It spread rapidly and flames blocked both exits out of the lower deck, where passengers and one crew member were sleeping in tight quarters, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said.

The captain and four crew members woke on the upper decks jumped off the front of the vessel, swam to an inflatable boat at the back and steered it to a ship anchored nearby. Authorities have interviewed them but haven't said what efforts they made to help the 34 people trapped aboard before abandoning ship.

Twenty bodies have been pulled from the sunken vessel that had been anchored close to the shore of Santa Cruz Island, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) off the coast and northwest of Los Angeles. Four to six other bodies have been



spotted underwater, and divers are looking for the remaining people who are missing.

Among those believed to be dead are five members of one family and the marine biologist leading the diving tour.

"We're sensitive to the fact that families have gathered today, some from outside of the area, to bring their loved ones home," Santa Barbara County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig told reporters. Those families "will rely on us to do everything in our power to find out happened aboard that vessel in the last moments of these family members' lives. That's our commitment."

DNA will be needed to identify all the victims, and authorities will be using the same rapid analysis tool that identified victims of the deadly wildfire that devastated the Northern California town of Paradise last year, the sheriff said.

Authorities have not released any victims' names, but Brown said he had heard anecdotally that they ranged from teenagers to people in their 60s. He said most appear to have been from Northern California, including Santa Cruz, San Jose and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Susana Rosas of Stockton, California, posted on social media that her three daughters, their father and stepmother were on board.

ACROSS THE NATION

Sheriff: 14-year-old killed his family, later confessed

ELKMONT, Ala. (AP)—A 14-year-old boy admitted to killing five members of his family, including his three younger siblings, in a slaying that rattled a small Alabama town, authorities said Tuesday. Limestone County sheriff's spokesman Stephen Young said the boy called 911 at about 11 p.m. Monday. He met deputies on the driveway and told them he heard gunshots upstairs while he was in the basement and he ran out the door. The teen later confessed to being the one who pulled the trigger, Young said. "Upon being confronted with some of the inconsistencies, he did admit to shooting the five family members. All five were family members and all five lived in the residence," Young said. The suspect's 6-month-old brother, 5-year-old sister and 6-year-old brother were among the victims. The adult victims were identified as the 38-year-old father of the suspect and the teen's 35-year-old stepmother. In a later statement, the sheriff's office said the children were stepsiblings of the suspect. He faces murder charges and

is being held in a juvenile detention facility. Young said he could face adult charges, including capital murder.

Boy thrown from Mall of America balcony returns home

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A 5-year-old boy has returned home nearly five months after he was thrown from a third-floor balcony at the Mall of America in Minnesota. The boy's family said Tuesday on a gofundme.com site that their son has completed inpatient treatment and has returned home. KSTP-TV reports the boy, identified only as Landen, will continue to receive outpatient rehabilitation for multiple injuries. The boy's family said in August that he had been moved from intensive care and into a rehabilitation program. "We are so thankful, and we rejoice in the Lord's blessings to our family," the family said in a statement quoted by the Star Tribune. The boy was thrown nearly 40 feet (12.2 meters) to the ground by a stranger in April. The man who threw Landen, Emmanuel Aranda, pleaded guilty to attempted premeditated first-degree murder. He told investigators he went to

the Bloomington mall "looking for someone to kill" after women had rejected his advances. Aranda filed notice Friday to appeal his case to the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

U of Illinois student arrested after noose found in elevator

URBANA, Ill. (AP)—A University of Illinois student who is accused of tying a noose and leaving it in a residence hall elevator was charged Tuesday with a hate crime. Andrew Smith, 19, found some rope in the elevator in Allen Hall over the weekend and tied it into a noose, Champaign County Assistant State's Attorney Kristin Alferink said during the arraignment. University spokeswoman Robin Kaler said students in the hall on the Urbana campus reported finding the noose early Sunday. Their find quickly blew up on social media and, seeing that, a woman who says she was with Smith when he tied the noose reported him to school authorities. Smith, of Normal, was arrested Monday and charged the next day with felony hate crime and misdemeanor disorderly conduct charges.

Asia

New Zealand gun buyback exposes emotions, possibly hustlers

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Some New Zealand gun owners are upset they're being compelled to hand over their assault weapons for money. Others believe a government-imposed ban on certain semi-automatics following a March shooting massacre is the best way to combat gun violence. And The Associated Press has found at least one man may have tried to swindle hundreds of thousands of dollars from the system set up to compensate gun owners.

New Zealand is six weeks into an ambitious program to buy tens of thousands of guns from owners across the country. After a lone gunman killed 51 people at two Christchurch mosques nearly six months ago, the government rushed through new laws banning military-style semi-automatics in a move that's being closely followed around the world.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told the AP in July that most New Zealanders disagree with the U.S. model under which gun ownership is seen as a constitutional right. The new laws in New Zealand emphasize that gun ownership is instead considered a privilege.

So far, owners have turned in more than 15,000 newly banned guns as well as 64,000 parts and accessories. In return, the government has handed them 32 million New Zealand dollars (\$20 million). But nobody has a clear target for the program because authorities haven't kept track of the number of guns in the country.

Tentative estimates put the total number of guns in New Zealand at about 1.5 million and the number of weapons that are now banned at up to 175,000. If those numbers are correct, it would mean less than 10% of the banned weapons have been handed in so far. Owners have until Dec. 20 to turn them over or potentially face charges.

Some politicians and opponents say the buyback scheme is a fiasco that is unfairly targeting law-abiding gun owners rather than criminals or gangs. However, Police Deputy Commissioner Mike



In this Aug. 31, 2019, photo Police Senior Sgt. Braydon Lenihan poses holding a banned gun that has been bent by a hydraulic machine outside a temporary gun collection venue in Porirua, near Wellington, New Zealand. **AP**

Clement, a 40-year veteran tapped to oversee the scheme, says it has been working well. He's traveled to some of the dozens of buyback events and says nobody really knows how many banned guns are out there so any estimates are unhelpful.

"We're just going to keep pushing ourselves," Clement said.

On Saturday, the last day of the Southern Hemisphere winter, Clement stood in the sun outside an event center near Wellington owned by a dog owners' club. On this day, the center had been turned into a makeshift venue to hand in guns. Heavily armed officers patrolled while others greeted gun owners cheerfully as they arrived and ushered them inside.

Under the buyback scheme, gun owners get between 25% and 95% of the pre-tax price of a new gun, depending on the condition of their guns. Police take bank details from owners and usually deposit money into their accounts within a few days.

After collecting the weapons, police use a hydraulic machine to crush the barrels and triggers out of shape before tossing them into crates that are loaded onto a truck for disposal.

One of the owners who showed up on Saturday was Paul Campbell, a chiropractor who has enjoyed target shooting since he was 10 years old. Campbell said he was turning in an AR-15 rifle, an AR-10 rifle and a 1961 ex-army SLR rifle that he considered sacred because it was part of a collection used by soldiers in battle. He said he disagreed with the ban and felt it was a knee-jerk reaction to an isolated event. He said previous laws were adequate if they'd been properly enforced.

"Nothing is going to stop crazy behavior when crazy shows up, except good watchfulness by society to see the cracks, to see the problems, to see problem people," Campbell said. "This is a mental aberration, it's not a behavior brought on by the object."

Michael Dowling, chairman of

the Council of Licensed Firearm Owners, said gun owners had mixed reactions to the ban and some felt badly treated but most were trying to comply with the law. He said the council doesn't agree with the ban and believes it could create a much bigger black market.

"We're concerned at a high level that the way this has been approached, it potentially could mean a lot of firearms don't get handed in," Dowling said. "And that will create issues for generations to come."

But gun owner Phillip Fee, who was handing in his Remington semi-automatic rifle, said he supported the ban wholeheartedly, especially after the Christchurch shootings. He said there were lots of people who wanted to become infamous or highlight a cause, and that powerful semi-automatics gave them the means.

"There are not too many things that you can take that number of lives with in such a short period of time," he said. "So there has to be some form of control."

Thai officials discover remains of missing Karen activist

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai law enforcement officials said Tuesday they have found the remains of an ethnic Karen community activist who disappeared five years ago in suspicious circumstances.

Porlajee Rakchongcharoen, known as Billy, was last seen in the custody of Kaeng Krachan National Park officials in western Thailand on April 17, 2014. His case is one of several involving the killing or disappearance of community and environmental activists, a problem in Thailand and many developing countries.

Porlajee had been leading the Karen community in a lawsuit against park chief Chaiwat Limlikitaksorn over his efforts to forcibly

evict them by burning their homes inside the park—where they had lived for generations—along with their possessions.

Chaiwat acknowledged that Porlajee had been arrested for illegally collecting wild honey, but said he had been released with a warning before disappearing.

Thailand's Department of Special Investigation—Thailand's FBI—announced Tuesday it had discovered a 200-liter (53-gallon) oil drum sunk in a reservoir at the park with a bone fragment near it that matched the DNA of Porlajee's mother. Both the drum and the bone had been burnt. More bone fragments were later found nearby and are still being tested.

"The result of the forensics confirmed his death. But as media have asked about the circumstances of the death, investigators are still gathering evidence to answer that question," DSI chief Police Col. Paisit Wongmuang said at a news conference. "Now that we have found parts of the body—that means we now have a murder case. We are still investigating and collecting further evidence, to determine whether the murder involved torture or other elements."

Porlajee, who was 30 years old when he disappeared, is survived by his wife, Phinnapha Phrueksaphan, and their five children.

Porlajee's case has been on a list

compiled by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights of 82 victims of forced disappearance in Thailand since the 1980s, which includes activists critical of state policy or officials.

"None of these cases have been resolved, and no one has been prosecuted," the New York-based group Human Rights Watch noted on Aug. 30, the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances. "A key reason for this is that Thailand's penal code does not recognize enforced disappearance as a criminal offense. Thailand has signed but has yet to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance."

ASIA BRIEFS

Bus crashes in New Zealand, causing fatalities and injuries

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A bus has crashed near a popular New Zealand tourist town and police say there are multiple deaths and injuries. Police said more than 20 people were on the bus that rolled on a highway about 20 minutes north of the North Island town of Rotorua. Police said there were fatalities but couldn't immediately confirm the number. Several passengers suffered injuries and were transported to hospitals. The St. John ambulance service said the crash happened about 11:20 a.m. in poor weather. It said it dispatched five helicopters and five ambulances to the scene. St John said it airlifted one passenger in serious condition and two others in moderate conditions to hospitals and drove another three patients who had suffered moderate or minor injuries to hospitals.

India oil and gas plant fire kills 3 firefighters, 1 worker

NEW DELHI (AP)—An explosion triggered a fire Tuesday at a state-run oil and gas processing plant in western India, killing four people, officials said. Police officer V. Damgude said the four dead were three firefighters and one plant executive. Press Trust of India news agency said another three firefighters were injured and hospitalized. The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, which runs the plant, said on Twitter that the fire started in the stormwater drainage in the plant and was doused within two hours. More than 20 fire engines rushed to the scene in Navi Mumbai township near India's financial capital of Mumbai. Lalit Jha, an officer of the Central Industrial Security Force, said the workers first detected a gas leakage and called for fire officers while trying to close a pipe valve. "There was a blast killing three CISF firefighters and one assistant general manager of the ONGC," he told reporters. The explosion started a fire and thick smoke engulfed the area.

Pakistan grants consular aid to Indian facing death penalty

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan on Monday granted rare consular access to an Indian man facing the death penalty after being convicted of spying. The case has been a source of friction between the nuclear-armed neighbors as tensions have escalated in recent weeks over the disputed Kashmir region. The foreign ministry said it allowed an Indian diplomat in Islamabad to meet with Kulbhushan Jadhav, in compliance with a July order from the International Court of Justice. At the time, the United Nations' highest court ordered Pakistan to stay the Jadhav's execution. He was arrested in 2016, and a military tribunal sentenced him to death a year later. Anti-India sentiment has grown in Pakistan since New Delhi moved to downgrade Indian-controlled Kashmir's special status last month and imposed a security lockdown and communications blackout on the region, which is majority Muslim. Kashmir is split between Pakistan and India and claimed by both in its entirety.

World

Defiant UK lawmakers move to bar 'no deal' Brexit

LONDON (AP)—With Britain's prime minister weakened by a major defeat in Parliament, defiant lawmakers were moving Wednesday to bar Boris Johnson from pursuing a "no-deal" departure from the European Union.

In retaliation, the new leader plans to call an early general election that would put his own future, and that of his Conservative Party, on the line in a bid for a new Parliament that would back his Brexit policy.

Johnson enjoyed a brief honeymoon after taking power in July, dominating the news with public spending programs while Parliament was in recess, but that came to an abrupt end Tuesday night as rebellious lawmakers—including 21 of Johnson's fellow Conservatives—voted 328 to 301 to seize control of the Brexit agenda.

There is still great uncertainty about how—or even if—Britain will ultimately leave the prosperous EU bloc and strike out on its own, a cherished goal for Johnson and his inner circle of Brexit-minded advisers.

The course remains unpredictable. Even if the rebels force through legislation blocking a no-deal Brexit on Oct. 31, an extension beyond that date can only take effect



if each of the other 27 EU nations approves it.

The Conservative revolt comes at a cost as the party frays under Brexit pressure. Some senior Conservative Party figures, including former Treasury chief Philip Hammond and Winston Churchill's grandson, Nicholas Soames, joined the rebellion and face expulsion from the party after decades of service.

The prime minister's risky plan to call an early election also may be difficult to obtain. He would need a two-thirds majority to back him in Parliament, and wary opposition parties do not trust Johnson to make good on any promise to hold an election before the Oct. 31 Brexit deadline.

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, who has been demanding an election for sever-

al years, said Tuesday night he would only back a new election if the legislation blocking a no-deal is already in place.

A frustrated Johnson complained after the vote that Parliament was giving the EU control of the negotiations and said he would not seek a delay under any circumstances.

"I don't want an election but if MPs vote tomorrow to stop the negotiations and to com-

pel another pointless delay of Brexit, potentially for years, then that will be the only way to resolve this," Johnson said.

If an election is scheduled, it would probably be held in mid-October. There are many unknowns — for starters, it is not clear whether there might eventually be an alliance between Johnson and the Brexit Party led by euroskeptic Nigel Farage. Those two teamed up

effectively in the 2016 Brexit referendum.

Labour's position is not entirely clear. Party leader Corbyn opposes a no-deal departure but has disappointed many party members who want him to call for Brexit to be stopped altogether.

The vote in Parliament on Tuesday night suggests strong support for preventing the no-deal scenario. It was only made possible by 21 Conservative Party legislators who defied Johnson and will see their parliamentary careers come to an early end because of it.

The cross-party rebels are fighting to prevent a no-deal Brexit because of fears it would gravely damage the economy and plunge Britain into a prolonged recession while also leading to possible medicine and food shortages. The vote came hours after Johnson suffered a key defection from his party, costing him his working majority in Parliament.

Johnson and his backers say the fears about no-deal are overblown and that voters who backed Brexit are demanding action, not more talk.

Downing Street said after the vote that party members who defied Johnson on the vote would be expelled. Johnson's hardline stance has infuriated many longtime, prominent party members.

'Total devastation': Hurricane slams parts of the Bahamas

FREEPORT, Bahamas (AP)—Relief officials reported scenes of utter ruin Tuesday in parts of the Bahamas and rushed to deal with an unfolding humanitarian crisis in the wake of Hurricane Dorian, the most powerful storm on record ever to hit the islands. At least seven deaths were reported, with the full scope of the disaster still unknown.

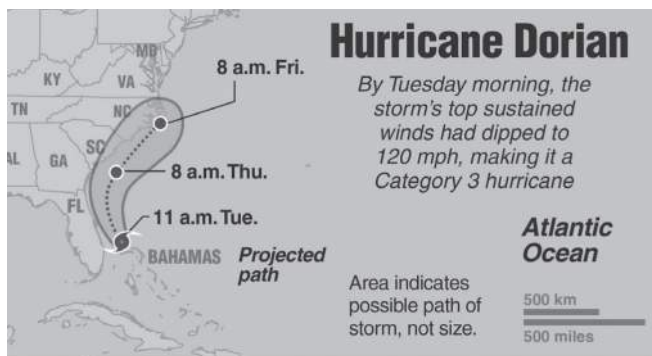
The storm's punishing winds and muddy brown floodwaters destroyed or severely damaged thousands of homes, crippled hospitals and trapped people in attics.

"It's total devastation. It's decimated. Apocalyptic," said Lia Head-Rigby, who helps run a local hurricane relief organization and flew over the Bahamas' hard-hit Abaco Islands. "It's not rebuilding something that was there; we have to start again."

She said her representative on Abaco told her that there were "a lot more dead" and that the bodies were being gathered. The prime minister also expected more deaths and predicted that rebuilding would require "a massive, coordinated effort."

"We are in the midst of one of the greatest national crises in our country's history," Bahamas Prime Minister Hubert Minnis told a news conference. "No effort or resources will be held back."

Emergency authorities



Graphic: Staff, TNS
Source: NOAA, Sun Sentinel

struggled to reach victims and urged people to hang on.

"We don't want people thinking we've forgotten them. ... We know what your conditions are," Tammy Mitchell of the Bahamas' National Emergency Management Agency told ZNS Bahamas radio station.

With their heads bowed against heavy wind and rain, rescuers began evacuating people from the storm's after-

math across Grand Bahama late Tuesday, using jet skis, boats and even a huge bulldozer that cradled children and adults in its digger as it cut through deep waters and carried them to safety.

One rescuer gently scooped

up an elderly man in his arms and walked toward a pickup truck waiting to evacuate him and others to higher ground.

Practically parking over a portion of the Bahamas for a day and a half, Dorian pounded the northern Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama with winds up to 185 mph (295 kph) and torrential rain before finally moving into open waters Tuesday on a course for Florida. Its winds were down

to a still-dangerous 110 mph (175 kph) late Tuesday, making it a Category 2 storm.

Over 2 million people along the coast in Florida, Georgia and North and South Carolina were warned to evacuate. While the threat of a direct hit on Florida had all but evaporated, Dorian was expected to pass dangerously close to Georgia and South Carolina—and perhaps strike North Carolina—on Thursday or Friday.

Even if landfall does not occur, the system is likely to cause storm surge and severe flooding, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

"Don't tough it out. Get out," said U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency official Carlos Castillo.

In the Bahamas, Red Cross spokesman Matthew Cochrane said more than 13,000 houses, or about 45% of the homes on Grand Bahama and Abaco, were believed to be severely damaged or destroyed. U.N. officials said more than 60,000 people on the hard-hit islands will need food, and the Red Cross said some 62,000 will need clean drinking water.

MH17 investigators want to speak to Ukrainian prisoner

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Dutch prosecutors investigating the downing five years ago of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine want to speak to a man being held by Ukrainian authorities, calling him a "person of interest" in their probe, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The fate of Volodymyr Tsemakh could be a factor in the stalled prisoner swap between Russia and Ukraine as Dutch prosecutors want him to remain in Ukraine.

Unconfirmed reports have suggested that Tsemakh is on the list of prisoners that Moscow wants exchanged in return for freeing prisoners including 24 sailors captured off Crimea in November.

Brechtje van de Moosdijk, a spokeswoman for the Joint Investigation Team looking at the downing by a surface-to-air Buk missile of the Malaysian flight on July 17, 2014, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that Tsemakh is currently in a Ukrainian jail, "but if he's being

swapped then, well, of course it's hard to say that we can speak to him when he would be in Russia."

The international investigation team is seeking to prosecute those responsible for the downing of the flight known as MH17 and the murder of all 298 people on board when the Boeing 777 heading from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was blown out of the sky over conflict-hit eastern Ukraine.

The team has indicted four people so far, three Russians and a Ukrainian, but Tsemakh is not among the four.

"The Dutch public prosecutor would like to have Mr. Tsemakh in Ukraine so he's available for the investigation and we can ask him further questions," Van de Moosdijk said.

Ukrainian officials would not comment on reports that Tsemakh is on the prisoner swap list but Daria Moroz, an official in the rebel-held Donetsk, told Russian media on Monday that Tsemakh is part of the swap.

Environment

By **STEPHANIE DE MARCO**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Green pond scum floating on a lake is not just unsightly. As animal lovers have learned the hard way, it can be deadly.

In recent days, three pet dogs in North Carolina and another in Georgia died after swimming in water contaminated with toxic organisms.

Warm temperatures and an influx of nutri-

ents from agricultural runoff or other sources can prompt toxic algae and bacteria to grow out of control. The result is a phenomenon called a toxic algae bloom.

As the planet warms, these blooms are becoming more frequent — leading to a greater chance for human and animal exposure.

WHAT IS AN ALGAE BLOOM?

A bloom occurs when algae or cyanobacteria suddenly grow to huge numbers. In 2011, for instance, a toxic algae bloom in Lake Erie grew so large over the course of four days that it could be seen from space. This growth is typically fueled by warm temperatures, still water and nutri-

ents such as nitrogen and phosphorous.

Algae blooms can range from completely innocuous to incredibly toxic, said David Caron, a microbial ecologist at USC. They can turn the water different colors, from bright reds and greens to shades of brownish-yellow.

WHAT ARE ALGAE?

Algae are plant-like organisms that grow in water or other damp environments. They can be as small as a single cell or as large as a kelp forest. For the most part, they get their energy through photosynthesis. However, they lack roots, leaves and other characteristic components of plants.

The microorganisms

known as blue-green algae aren't actually algae at all. They are cyanobacteria, bacterial cells that get their energy from photosynthesis.

Toxic blooms in freshwater lakes and streams are usually caused by cyanobacteria, while blooms that occur in the ocean are typically the result of algae.

Everything you need to know about

ARE TOXIC ALGAE BLOOMS THE SAME AS RED TIDES?

Not quite. Red tides are certainly an example of an algae bloom, but although the water may be red, the algae might not be producing toxins. (State public health officials monitor these blooms to check for toxin production.)

Scientists have moved away from using the term "red tide" because it's not quite descriptive enough. Blooms can produce a variety of colors; they can also be dangerous even when the water isn't discolored at all, Anderson said.



This photo taken on July 11, 2019 shows boats surrounded by algae in a bay in Qingdao, China's eastern Shandong province. The bright green algae bloom is an annual phenomenon along the Shandong coastline since the first outbreak in 2008, and is believed to be caused by a combination of warming sea temperatures, and edible seaweed farming off the coast.

CAN SCIENTISTS PREDICT WHEN AND WHERE THEY WILL OCCUR?

Not yet. The precise conditions that result in an algae bloom aren't completely clear.

"There are a lot of nuances in why blooms occur, when blooms occur, which spe-

cies bloom and whether they produce toxin," Caron said. Scientists are trying to understand these factors "so that we can have better predictive ability of when and where blooms will occur," he said.

HOW ARE HUMANS EXPOSED TO THESE TOXINS?

The most common way is through what Anderson calls "recreational exposure."

"It would be people swimming in a lake and either swallowing water or breathing in aerosolized cells and toxin while they ride on a motorboat or Jet Ski," he said.

It can show up in our food,

too. For instance, fish and shellfish can eat algae that produce the toxin domoic acid. It's not harmful for them, but it's toxic to people. High doses can be lethal, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Lower doses can damage the brain and cause memory loss.

TOXIC ALGAE BLOOMS

IS CLIMATE CHANGE MAKING THESE TOXIC BLOOMS MORE COMMON?

Absolutely. Global warming is making harmful freshwater blooms more frequent and more dense, Anderson said. They're also moving farther north and leaving their more southern boundary behind.

"We're seeing that these problem organisms are changing the ranges in which they occur because of climate," he said.

In the ocean, patches of warm water are prime real estate for algae blooms.

An increase in water temperature off the west coast of the United States caused a massive toxic algal bloom in 2015. Lethal concentrations of toxins closed fisheries in California and halted clam harvesting in Oregon and Washington.

This bloom was not necessarily a result of global warming, Anderson said. "But it gives you a feeling of what might happen with climate change and warming of waters," he said.

WHAT ABOUT DOGS?

Unfortunately, dogs can be quite attracted to toxic algae, and pet owners need to be vigilant, Anderson said.

"A lot of these animals just go down to the shore and drink. They're just used to doing that," he said. "Sometimes some of these

algae dry on the shore of the water and get kind of crispy or crunchy, and dogs will eat that. They tend to like the taste of it."

The toxin's effects kick in rapidly in dogs, Caron said, so it's vital to get to the vet as quickly as possible.

WHAT CAN PEOPLE DO TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THEIR PETS?

Be observant. Check for signs indicating that the area is closed to the public. Even if no signs are posted, take a look at the water and make sure the color is normal.

"If you see that slimy green surface to the water, you really should not let your animals go swimming or drinking along the edge," Anderson said.

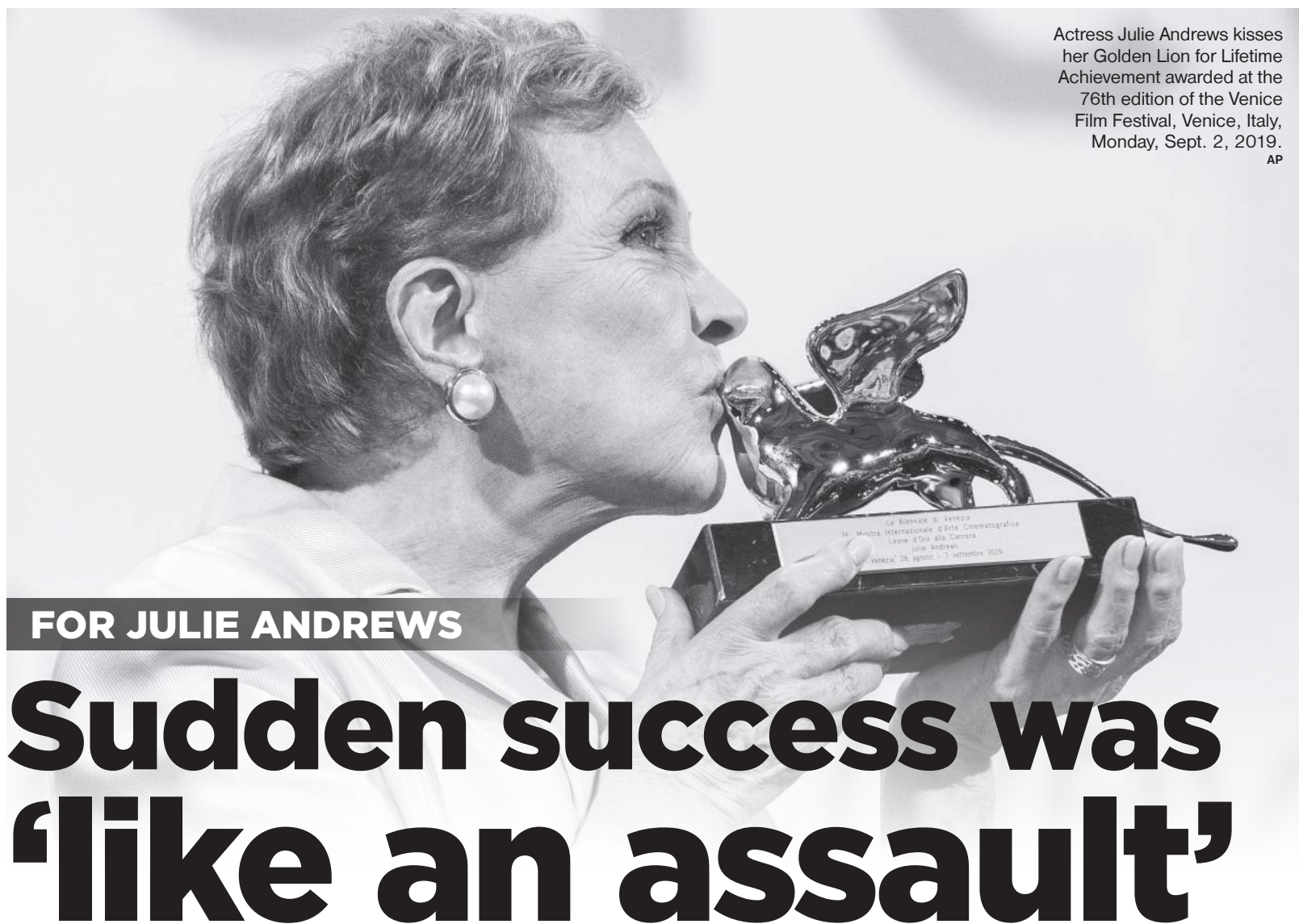
If you do come into contact with an algae bloom, "try not to swallow the water," he said. "Wash really well with hoses because you

can get rashes as well."

Don't go fishing and don't harvest shellfish if a harmful algae bloom is underway. Government agencies including state departments of public health keep a close eye on toxin levels, and you can rely on their advice, Anderson said.

"These monitoring programs are truly effective," he said. "If there are shellfish on the market at a reputable store or restaurant, you can eat them. I eat them all the time."

Life & Style



Actress Julie Andrews kisses her Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement awarded at the 76th edition of the Venice Film Festival, Venice, Italy, Monday, Sept. 2, 2019.

AP

FOR JULIE ANDREWS

Sudden success was 'like an assault'

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

Hollywood success came so suddenly for Julie Andrews, she said it felt like “an assault.” The 83-year-old star is nothing but grateful for everything that’s come her way, but she had the unique experience of having filmed three movies back to back before any had come out—two of which, “Mary Poppins” and “The Sound of Music” are still her most enduring.

“I hope I had some common sense, but it could knock you off your feet that assault of press and adulation,” the 83-year-old said Tuesday at the Venice International Film Festival. She made the trip to Italy to receive the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement Award there the evening prior.

Andrews enchanted the audience with tales of her expansive career, regaling them with stories about everything from Walt Disney offering her the role of Mary Poppins—despite the fact that she had never done a film and was three months pregnant—to thanking Jack Warner while accepting her Golden Globe for the part. Warner had passed on her to play Eliza Doolittle in the big screen adaptation of “My Fair Lady,” which meant she was free to take Mary Poppins.

“I had hoped but understood completely when I did not get asked to do the movie for Warner Bros. who went with my friend Audrey Hepburn,” Andrews said. “But it’s not difficult to get over the disappointment because Mr. Disney comes along and asks if you want to do Mary Poppins.”

She spoke too about her 41-year marriage to the late director Blake

Edwards, whom she would act for in a number of films including “10,” “Victor Victoria,” “S.O.B.” and “That’s Life.”

“He understood me very well and I think he saw that I wasn’t just a goody too-shoes. I wasn’t just prim and proper... there may be some comedy there,” she said. “He saw that and developed that.”

It was a family affair in Venice for Andrews, who brought along her daughter, Emma Walton Hamilton, her granddaughter, her grandson and her son-in-law. She has a memoir coming out in mid-October detailing her Hollywood years, from “Mary Poppins” through “Victor Victoria” called “Home Work” that she co-wrote with Hamilton.

Ever gracious, Andrews said that she feels like she has been racing to catch up her whole life.

“Things came so quickly and so wonderfully,” she said, advising everyone to, “Do your homework, be ready, you never know when you are going to get so lucky. I am and I was lucky.”

One audience member asked Andrews Tuesday whether there was anything she wasn’t “practically perfect” at.

“I can’t cook at all, I’m very bad,” Andrews said. “I am the queen of breakfasts.”

This, she said, was even with five children and 10 grandchildren. Once she tried to make her daughter cookies without baking soda, however.

“I couldn’t even break the cookie when I was finished,” Andrews said.

She asked her daughter what else she was bad at.

Hamilton: “You swear a lot.”

Andrews: “I do swear a lot! Mr. Disney found that out quite quickly.”

Sheryl Crow feels ‘liberated’ by saying goodbye to the album

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Sheryl Crow has a lifetime of stories of hanging out with rock stars, pop stars, athletes, icons and music royalty, some even featured on her new collaborative record, but don’t expect her to start revealing any secrets in an autobiography.

“I mean, there are certain people that would have to die first in order for me to tell the real story,” Crow said in a one-room church she had built on her property in Nashville, Tennessee, that houses a strange and eclectic collection of religious-themed statues, crosses, antique dolls, mirrors and stained glass.

Her laughter echoed in the tall ceiling and then she felt bad about saying that aloud. “That is terrible. I did not say that,” Crow said.

The Grammy-winning Crow does have rock ‘n’ roll secrets, but she’s happy to keep some of them squirreled away like the antiques in that building.



Crow

“I’ve lived them and I love being able to reflect on them, but I don’t know that I feel the need to share them with the world,” Crow said.

If Crow is feeling a bit reflective about her lengthy career, it’s because she’s at a turning point, both looking backward at all those musical icons that inspired her and trying to uplift a new generation especially female rockers. “Threads,” out last Friday, features more than 20 other artists, including Keith Richards, Neil Young, Maren Morris, Stevie Nicks, St. Vincent, Sting and Eric Clapton.

Crow said it is her last full-length album and she feels “liberated.”

“I feel pretty good about this being my farewell to making full length albums,” Crow said.

Crow broke out in the heyday of CDs and rock radio, but over the course of her career digital downloads and then streaming has tanked both formats.

Justice Sotomayor encourages kids to ‘Just Ask’ in new book

WASHINGTON (AP)—Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor has said that the seed for what has become her latest children’s book was planted the day a woman called her a drug addict.

Sotomayor, who was diagnosed with diabetes at age 7, had gone to the bathroom of an upscale New York restaurant to give herself an insulin shot. She was in her 30s but hiding her diabetes. Another diner came in and saw her and later, as Sotomayor was leaving the restaurant, she heard the woman tell a companion: “She’s a drug addict.”

Outraged, Sotomayor confronted her, explaining that the shot was medicine, not drugs: “If you don’t know something, ask, don’t assume,” Sotomayor said.



Sotomayor

From that exchange comes the title of Sotomayor’s latest book, “Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You,” released Tuesday and intended for kids age 4 to 8. The book introduces readers to children who face what Sotomayor calls “life challenges” as they work together to create a garden rich with different flowers and plants, a metaphor for their own differences.

A young Sotomayor begins the book by talking about her diabetes and encouraging children to ask about other kids’ differences. Other children introduce their own chal-

lenges, including attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism, blindness and Down syndrome.

“Differences provide not just beauty in life, but they’re important to the quality of the world we live in. It’s richer because of our differences. We’re not lesser because of it. We’re stronger because of it. My book celebrates the many ways in which kids and adults are different and do things differently,” Sotomayor said in an interview ahead of the book’s publication.

Sotomayor, who was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Barack Obama in 2009, said she has wanted to write the book “forever” and that she was also motivated by hearing the stories of friends who have children with chronic conditions.

Prince Harry announces massive travel sustainability project

NEW YORK (AP)—The eco-minded Prince Harry is embarking on a massive travel sustainability initiative in partnership with key travel providers. They aim to improve the practices of the global industry amid an ever-increasing number of travelers.

The Duke of Sussex picked Amsterdam, a city hit hard by over-tourism, to announce Travalyt at a news conference Tuesday with his partners, Booking.com; TripAdvisor; Visa; China’s largest travel company, Ctrip; and the Ctrip-owned fare aggregator Skyscanner.

The long-term initiative is fo-

cused on tackling the travel industry’s impact on climate change, improving wildlife conservation, and protecting the environment in

top tourist spots around the world. It aims to increase the amount of tourism dollars that go to local communities, and find answers to over-tourism.

“Travel has the unparalleled power to open people’s minds to different cultures, new experiences, and to have a profound appreciation for what our world has to offer,” the duke said in a statement shared with The Associated Press ahead of the formal announcement.



Harry

Prosecutors: R. Kelly moved to general inmate population

CHICAGO (AP)—Jail personnel moved R. Kelly on Tuesday into the general inmate population despite earlier concerns—apparently shared at one point by the singer—that other inmates could try to hurt him because of his celebrity status or because he is accused of sexually assaulting minors, federal prosecutors in Chicago said in a new court filing.

Word that Kelly has been moved from a restrictive unit at a

high-rise jail in downtown Chicago comes days after Kelly's lawyers said the 52-year-old had been held in solitary confinement by no fault of his own since his July arrest, with none of the privileges of other inmates, such as access to TV or candy from the jail commissary, or to outdoor exercise and daily showers. They characterized the conditions as "cruel and unusual punishment."

But in their Tuesday filing in U.S. District Court in Chi-

cago, prosecutors disputed defense suggestions Kelly had been kept in the special housing unit, called the SHU, against his will and for no good reason, alleging Kelly himself had asked after his July arrest on federal charges to be kept from other inmates. From the SHU, Kelly also was able to purchase items from the jail store,



R. Kelly

"including snacks such as Snickers," the filing says.

Kelly's attorney, Steve Greenberg, said he was pleased his client was no longer in the special housing unit, which Greenberg said also hampered Kelly's preparation for trial.

"But he shouldn't have been there in the first place," he said. "If you are going to

arrest high-profile individuals, you should find a way to hold them in a non-draconian way."

Kelly faces 40 counts of sexual various state and federal sexual misconduct charges in Illinois, Minnesota and New York, from child pornography to the aggravated sexual assault. The Grammy Award-winner has entered not guilty pleas in all the cases but the one in Minnesota, where he will be arraigned later.

A status hearing in Kelly's

federal case in Chicago is set for Wednesday, where Judge Harry Leinenweber is likely to ask attorneys about Kelly's current jail conditions.

Prosecutors quoted Kelly as saying in a recorded phone call from jail when he was still in the restrictive unit that he was torn about whether he could trust other inmates if transferred to areas where inmates mingle and interact. He said the jail staff told him he could give it a try for a few days.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Status hearing set in R. Kelly's federal case in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—R. Kelly is expected to appear at a status hearing a day after jail personnel moved him into the general inmate population following a complaint from his attorneys that he was being held in solitary in a restrictive section of a federal jail in Chicago. Questions about the singer's jail conditions could still come up at Wednesday's hearing in a Chicago federal court. But prosecutors say the issue is moot given Kelly's transfer Tuesday out of the restrictive unit. Authorities initially worried other inmates could try to hurt the Grammy Award-winner because of his celebrity status or because he is accused of sexually assaulting minors. Defense attorneys said Kelly had initial misgivings about entering the general population but changed his mind after experiencing conditions in the special unit. Kelly faces sexual misconduct charges in Illinois, Minnesota and New York.

Atwood, Rushdie among Booker Prize finalists

NEW YORK (AP)—Mar-

garet Atwood's "The Testaments," her highly anticipated sequel to "The Handmaid's Tale," is among six works shortlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction. Other finalists announced Tuesday include Salman Rushdie's "Quichotte," his modern telling of "Don Quixote," and Lucy Ellmann's epic stream-of-consciousness novel "Ducks, Newburyport." The other nominees are Bernardine Evaristo's "Girl, Woman, Other," Chigozie Obioma's "An Orchestra of Minorities" and Elif Shafak's "10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World." Authors in the running for the prestigious British prize range from the Nigerian Obioma to the Canadian Atwood. Rushdie and Atwood each have won the Booker before. The winner will be announced Oct. 14 during a ceremony in London.

Cuba Gooding Jr.'s trial on groping charges is postponed

NEW YORK (AP)—Cuba Gooding Jr.'s trial on groping charges has been postponed until Oct. 10. Prosecutors said Tuesday they're still

waiting for evidence in the Oscar-winning "Jerry Maguire" star's case. Jury selection had been set to start this week. Gooding's lawyers argued against the delay. The actor is accused of placing his hand on a 29-year-old woman's breast and squeezing it without her consent at Magic Hour Rooftop Bar & Lounge near Times Square on June 9. The woman told police she believed Gooding was intoxicated. The 51-year-old Gooding was arrested four days later after turning himself in to police. He has pleaded not guilty to forcible touching and sexual abuse charges and is free on his own recognizance. He faces up to a year in jail if convicted.

Greece drafting bid for Parthenon sculpture loan from UK

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece is preparing a formal request to borrow the British Museum's sculptures removed more than 200 years ago from the ancient Parthenon temple on Athens' Acropolis. Culture Minister Lina Mendoni says her ministry is drafting a proposal for the loan, which would coincide

with the 2021 bicentennial of the revolution that led to the formation of the modern Greek state. In return, she told private Skai TV Tuesday, Greece could lend the London museum Greek antiquities. No details were released. Mendoni said the proposal would be submitted by Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, at an unspecified time. Greece says the 5th Century B.C. works—about half the Parthenon's surviving sculptures—were illegally removed and should be returned. The British Museum rejects that.

Tribute concert of Avicii's music to benefit mental health

NEW YORK (AP)—A benefit concert for suicide prevention featuring the music of the late star Avicii is being planned for Dec. 5 in Stockholm, Sweden. Proceeds will support the work of the new Tim Bergling Foundation, named for the musician who killed himself in April 2018. His songs "Wake Me Up," "Addicted to You" and the posthumous "SOS" topped the dance music charts. The

concert will feature many of the singers, including Adam Lambert and Rita Ora, who were on Avicii's recordings and will be the first time many of them have been performed live. David Guetta and Kygo are among the electronic dance music stars that will perform opening sets. Organizers said tickets go on sale Thursday.

Rapper DMX helps family with back-to-school purchases

SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Rapper DMX has helped a Maine family with its back-to-school purchases. The rapper was in Maine to perform at Rock Row when he crossed paths with Nikki Cutchens and her daughter Grace at the Maine Mall. Cutchens tells WABI-TV that she was in line Saturday when DMX offered to pay. It was unclear how much the purchase was. DMX said he was blessed to have 15 children and wanted her family to be blessed, as well. She said she's grateful for the act of kindness. Grace Firley and her sister both got a pair of shoes. In her words, "I have DMX's shoes."

Justin Bieber opens up about his steep fall from grace



Bieber

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Bieber is opening up about a string of "bad decisions"

that led him to go from being a beloved teen performer to "the most ridiculed, judged and hated person in the world."

In a very personal and introspective Instagram post, the pop star examines how childhood fame led to depression, lack of responsibility, "doing pretty heavy drugs" and becoming disrespectful to women. At age 18, he had "millions in the bank" but "no skills in the real world."

Now 25, Bieber credited the support of friends, his Christian faith and his marriage with helping turn his life around.

He wrote: "It's taken me years to bounce back from all of these terrible decisions, fix broken relationships, and change relationship habits."

New job triggers memories of violent sexual assault

DEAR ABBY: A couple of years ago, I was working as a certified nursing assistant in a nursing home. One day, I decided to stay beyond my usual evening shift into the night shift, as I had a few times before. While working the night shift, I was violently sexually assaulted by a fellow CNA. The incident caused me to be so traumatized that I quit that job within the next few days.

Although I reported the co-worker to my boss, they did next to nothing about it. I also reported him to the police, but as far as I know, nothing has been done. I moved on to doing in-home care and then to an assisted living facility.

I have recently taken a higher-paying CNA position in another nursing home. This nursing home has so many similarities to the former one that I find myself having anxiety attacks, flashbacks and the feeling of constantly having to watch my back. I'm extremely uncomfortable here and constantly feel afraid to go to work. My husband has a hard time understanding the effects of such a traumatizing event, so I have a difficult time getting sympathy from him.

I really want to quit this job. I'm under so much mental and emotional stress that I feel like it's ruining me. At the same time, we need the money, and I wonder if I should just push through and stick with it. If I quit, I'm afraid my husband won't fully understand why I couldn't just stay at the job, and it may cause conflict as well as financial stress. Should I quit

and find a place that's less of a trigger or stick it out?

WORN DOWN IN WASHINGTON

DEAR WORN DOWN: You should have received counseling after your assault to help you get past these triggers, which even if you quit this job may continue to occur in other environments. Before making this decision, please consult a licensed therapist who specializes in treating patients who suffer from PTSD.

Although my impulse is to advise you to quit "stat," because of your husband's inability to understand what you have gone through, a mental health professional may be able to help HIM understand why you may need to work in in-home care or an assisted living facility rather than for this employer.

DEAR ABBY: After 47 years of friendship, my friend ghosted me. This had never happened before, so I was left feeling very confused and sad. A year later, I accidentally dialed her number, and she answered. We talked as if no time had passed.

She told me I had hurt her feelings. It wasn't intentional, and I apologized. Some time later, she told me she'd call me back, but she didn't. I clearly recall our last conversation, and I didn't say anything that would've hurt her.

It has been two years, and I haven't attempted to contact her since.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Should I reach out to her again or consider this friendship over?

HURTING, TOO, IN DALLAS

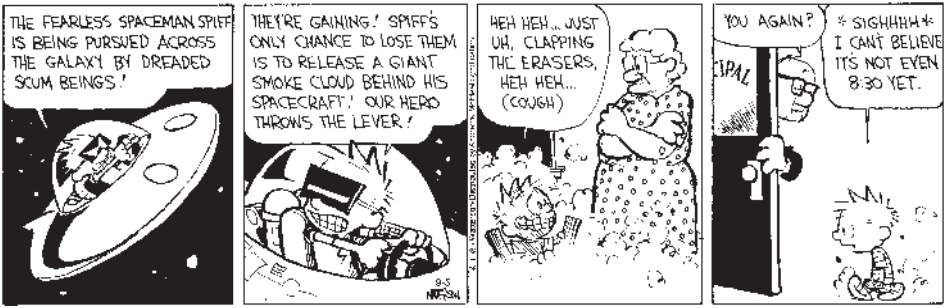
DEAR HURTING: This friendship has run its course, for whatever reason. However, abrupt changes in personality and behavior can be a symptom of serious illness in older people. In light of the fact that you have known this woman for nearly 50 years, and you still care about her, you might want to check with one of her relatives to be sure she's all right.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



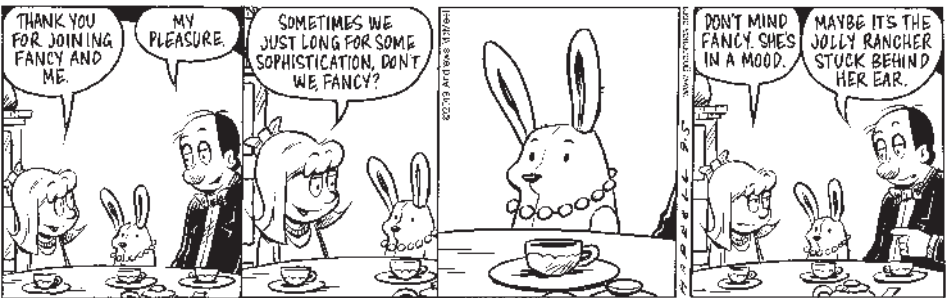
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



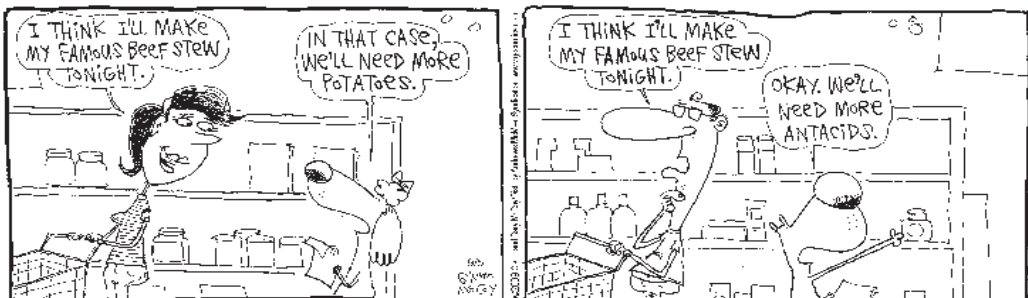
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Greek cheese
5 Sandbox toy
9 Pantheon member
12 Luau strings
13 Rights advocacy org.
14 Poetic tribute
15 Wealthy traveler
17 Republicans
18 Paragons
19 Critic Roger
21 "Hey!"
22 Taxpayer's dread
24 Auction actions
27 TV alien
28 Elevator name
31 Mil. morale booster
32 "Alice" waitress
33 Actress Longoria
34 Asian desert
36 Dorm VIPs

DOWN

1 Apple variety
2 Scratched (out)
3 Head, to Henri
4 Analyzes
5 Bits of butter
6 Play segment
7 — de- France
8 Enticed
9 Eager achiever
10 Air freshener target
11 Gov. division
16 "Evil Woman" gp.
20 Life story
22 Relieve
23 Sci-fi flee!
24 Glitch
25 Equal (Pref.)
26 Improve
27 Roundish 'do
29 "— had it!"
30 Melancholy
35 Sort
37 Secure, as a seatbelt
39 Flat floaters
40 "The Simpsons" bartender
41 Counterfeit
42 Corn Belt state
43 554, to Cato
44 "— boy!"
45 Bloke
46 Historic periods
49 "You've got mail" co.
50 Big D.C. lobby

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kat Graham, 30; Rose McGowan, 46; Michael Keaton, 68; Raquel Welch, 79.

Happy Birthday: Think big, but when it comes time to initiate your plans, take one small step at a time. Everything will eventually fall into place as the year progresses, allowing you to meet your mark in every way without setbacks, losses or regrets. Give yourself time to enjoy the ones you love as well as each accomplishment you make. Your numbers are 4, 12, 18, 23, 27, 36, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look over your personal finances and medical records, and check lottery tickets that you've stashed away somewhere safe. Make a to-do list, and flesh out ideas that you think have the potential to bring in extra cash. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Have a good reason and a plan in place before you make a move. Confidence will be more prevalent if you have done the legwork and have left nothing to chance. Make plans for someone you love. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Pay attention, listen to what's being said and make decisions based on what's most practical. Refuse to let your emotions take over or temptation overpower you. The less you commit to, the better. A frugal lifestyle will spare you unnecessary stress. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The changes you make personally or to your living arrangements or surroundings will lift your spirits. Keeping up with trends, technology and how you present who you are and what you do will end up being beneficial. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Separate what is possible from what isn't. It's best to have a plan in place and to put your effort where it will bring the highest return. Be secretive about your long-term plans until you are confident you can make them happen. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get together with people who make you think. Change happens when good ideas are shared and promises are made. What you accomplish now will make a difference in the way you move forward. Dump dead weight, and move forward with precision. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Being friendly and doing too much for others will encourage someone to take advantage of you. Strive for equality in your relationships. Rethink friendships with people who make a fuss when you ask for something in return. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make a point to reconnect with old friends. The memories you share will encourage you to revisit a goal that used to excite you. With a little effort, you can reinvent your plans to suit trends and markets. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Refuse to let your emotions take over. If you give in to someone who takes advantage of you, it will lower your self-esteem. Keep your life simple, your bank accounts healthy and your relationship with others evenly balanced. ★★

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A change at home will take you by surprise. Do your best to organize and plan your next move. Staying on top of whatever situation unfolds will lead to personal gains. Contracts and medical issues should be handled with moderation. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you don't like the changes someone is making, let him or her know that you don't plan to take part. Being honest will put an end to manipulative tactics that play on your emotions. Do what's best for yourself. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick close to home. Don't trust anyone trying to talk you into overspending, participating in indulgent behavior or signing up for something you don't want to do. Set your sights on personal growth, romance and helping a worthy cause. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, meticulous and outspoken. You are curious and observant.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/05

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

EMPEROR AKIHITO Solution: 10 letters

C U G U S T H I R T Y E A R S
R K O J U N O I S S I M R E P
O S N I A L R E B M A H C I H
W I S F I G U R E H E A D W P
N A G A S A K I R U L E D A O
O T I H U R A N M A W C H S S
I O K A Y A S I P D A K F Y T
T S N J E T N L H O E C U N W
C U S A A S A C E R N E J M O A
A T S T P I R P I U I E I M R
R I E I R A E S S K R W H E E
E R R E N O J T E Y H E I R W
T E P O P O T N I H S L T E O
N M M L A N O I T A N S O C P
I E E N O R H T O K Y O K I A

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Aiko, Ceremony, Chamberlains, Crown, Emeritus, Empress, Figurehead, Fumihito, Heisei, Imperial Palace, Inspire, Interaction, Japan, Jewels, Joko, Kojun, Kuroda, Monarch, Nagasaki, Naruhito, National, People, Permission, Postwar, Power, Reiwa, Ruled, Sayako, Shinto, Showa, Shrine, State, Thirty, Throne, Tokyo, Tsugu, Years

Yesterday's Answer: Books

The NEW Volume 56 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(3) Commercial Cleaner - High School Diploma and at least 2 years work experience. salary \$7.30/ per hr. Interested applicants please call 287-3223 email:vicelizama@yahoo.com

WHATZIT Solution:
Part exchange

DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER

APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Three (03) Auto Technicians 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, refline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@apexinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.
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GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(02) Counter Clerks - \$7.31 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Receive orders, generally in person, for repairs, rentals, and services. May describe available options, compute costs, and accept payment. Greet customers and discuss the type, quality, and quantity of merchandise sought for rental. Complete charges for merchandise or services and receive payments. Answer telephones to provide information and receive orders. Provide information about rental items, such as availability, operation, or description. Rent items, arrange for provision of services to customers, and accept returns.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Degree;
- At least 06 months experience;
- Must be a computer literate

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gpccinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site -marianaslabor.net.
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GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(40) Masons 7.57 to 8.25 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids; and use saws to cut expansion joints. Check the forms that hold the concrete to see that they are properly constructed. Set the forms that hold concrete to the desired pitch and depth, and align them. Spread, level, and smooth concrete, using rake, shovel, hand or power trowel, hand or power screed, and float. Monitor how the wind, heat, or cold affect the curing of the concrete throughout the entire process. Mold expansion joints and edges, using edging tools, jointers, and straightedge.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school Graduate;
- At least 03 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

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GPCC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(03) Painter Helper 10.83 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Help painters, paperhangers, plasterers, or stucco masons by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Clean work areas and equipment. Perform support duties to assist painters, paperhangers, plasterers, or masons. Apply protective coverings, such as masking tape, to articles or areas that could be damaged or stained by work processes. Erect scaffolding. Fill cracks or breaks in surfaces of plaster articles or areas with putty or epoxy compounds.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school Graduate;
- At least 03 months experience
- Knowledge in painting works.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gpccinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site -marianaslabor.net.
GPCC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Two (02) Maintenance Technicians \$8.33 per hour plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting, boiler making, insulating, welding, machining, carpentry, repairing electrical or mechanical equipment, installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment, and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs. Inspect, operate, or test machinery or equipment to diagnose machine malfunctions. Dismantle machines, equipment, or devices to access and remove defective parts, using hoists, cranes, hand tools, or power tools. Perform routine maintenance, such as inspecting drives, motors, or belts, checking fluid levels, replacing filters, or doing other preventive maintenance actions. Diagnose mechanical problems and determine how to correct them, checking blueprints, repair manuals, or parts catalogs, as necessary. Repair machines, equipment, or structures, using tools such as hammers, hoists, saws, drills, wrenches, or equipment such as precision measuring instruments or electrical or electronic testing devices.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 12 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools such as cordless power drills power circular saws and pullers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@apexinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.
APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(25) Heavy Equipment Operators \$8.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Operate one or several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concrete or other hard surface pavement. May repair and maintain equipment in addition to other duties. Learn and follow safety regulations. Take actions to avoid potential hazards or obstructions, such as utility lines, other equipment, other workers, or falling objects. Locate underground services, such as pipes or wires, prior to beginning work. Monitor operations to ensure that health and safety standards are met. Adjust hand wheels and depress pedals to control attachments, such as blades, buckets, scrapers, or swing booms.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in operating and controlling power construction equipment and in monitoring of gauges, dials or other indicators to make sure that the equipment is working properly.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gpccinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site -marianaslabor.net.
GPCC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Sam Corporation is looking for the following position:
Sales Manager: Must be at least High School Graduate. Must be knowledgeable in all alcohol, liquor and tobacco products. Must have experience overseeing sales people in wholesale company. Must know cost-analysis and sales-analysis from each sales categories. Must know strategic planning for selling. Knowledgeable in INFLOW POS is a plus.
Sales Representative – Wholesale: Must be at least High School Graduate. With at least 24 months experience in Sales. Must be knowledgeable in all alcohol and liquor products. Must have experience in selling in wholesale company. Must be computer literate. Knowledge in INFLOW POS is a plus.
Accounting Clerk: Must be at least High School graduate. Knowledge in recording company transactions. Knowledge in INFLOW POS and QUICKBOOKS is a plus.
Open to all US Citizen or LPR. Application period is from Sept 5 to 11, 2019. Interested applicants may contact Eun Soon Lee at 233-9469 or 783-5419. Or submit their resume to the email: samcorpimports@yahoo.com.

ITS CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(2) Heavy Equipment Mechanics - \$9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Duties may include but not limited to: Maintaining, repairing and servicing a set of heavy equipment machines or vehicles (e.g., trucks, backhoes, excavators, bulldozers, cranes and compactors, completing inspections and preventive maintenance requirement, correcting vehicle deficiencies, making adjustments and alignments, and keeping records; ensure that all equipment is operating smoothly after repair and maintenance.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate
- Minimum 2 years/24 months experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- Valid CNMI Driver's license
- Current DOT physical examination

All interested applicants can send resume to info@itscorporation.net or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net
ITS CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Two (02) Mechanics 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system, test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, refline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@apexinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670) 234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.
APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(12) Mechanics \$7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, refline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gpccinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site -marianaslabor.net.
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ITS CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Customer Service Representative - \$9.26 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Duties may include but not limited to: Confering with customers by phone or in person to provide information about products or services, take or enter orders, cancel accounts, or obtain details of complaints; checking to ensure that appropriate changes were made to resolve customer's problems; keeping records of customer interactions or transactions - customer service or billing complaints by performing activities such as exchanging service, refunding money or adjusting bills, and completing contract forms, preparing documents or issuing service discontinuance orders using computers.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School graduate or GED
- Minimum 12 months experience
- Computer knowledge
- Valid CNMI driver's license

All interested applicants can send resume to info@itscorporation.net Or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net
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MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD.,)
PLAINTIFF)
-V-)
MATTHEW A. OOKA,)
RITA M. OOKA,) CIVIL ACTION
AND THE SMALL) NO. 13-0238
BUSINESS)
ADMINISTRATION,)
DEFENDANTS.)

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court int this matter on August 15, 2019, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants Matthew A. Ooka and Rita M. Ooka in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property: Lot no. 330 R 12, situated in Sinapalo II, Northern Mariana Islands, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 330 R 02, dated March 13, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 92-858, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property: 871 square meters

Known encumbrances: The property is subject to a right of redemption in favor of the Small Business Administration, described as below.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale will be held on Friday, September 27, 2019, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. A copy of a title insurance report for the property is available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Sale of the subject property is subject to the redemption right of the Administrator of the Small Business Administration of the United States of America pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2410(c). The United States of America shall be allowed to bid at the sale, and if successful, may pay with United States Treasury check(s).

Dated, this 28th day of August, 2019.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9715 Facsimile (670) 236-9702

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-JUDICIARY-04
SUBMISSION DATE: September 19, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF ONE COLOR MULTIFUNCTION MACHINE FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY”

The Commonwealth Judiciary (“Judiciary”) is soliciting invitation for bids for one color multifunction machine.

The Invitation for Bids and supporting documents may be obtained at the cashier's window, Window #1, located at the front of the Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

KURI ENTERPRISES, INC.
DBA KURI-YA JAPANESE CUISINE
P.O. BOX 501719 CK, SAIPAN MP 96950

ONE (1) FOOD PREPARATION WORKER
Duties/Responsibilities:

- Clean and sanitize work areas; Clean all kitchen equipment, utensils, dishes and silverwares; Prepare variety of foods such as meat, vegetables or desert according to customer's orders or supervisor's instruction following approved procedures; Store supplies or goods in the kitchen or storage areas; assist the Head Cook in preparing orders from customers; Monitor inventory of stocks and report to the Head Cook as needed.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be familiar with different types of Kitchen Equipment in a Japanese Cuisine
- Must have 3 months experience in Japanese Food Preparation
- Must be a High School Graduate or Equivalence

INTERESTED APPLICANTS:

- SUBMIT APPLICATION LETTER OR RESUME AT THE RESTAURANT FROM 4:30 PM TO 11:00 PM – Monday to Saturday or send resume via email at CERVANTES_VG@YMAIL.COM;
- Please check the CNMI Department of Labor site or call 670 2345878 or visit us during store hours and look for Tsukasa Kuribayashi for inquiries.

KURI ENTERPRISES IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

KURI ENTERPRISES, INC.
DBA KURI-YA JAPANESE CUISINE
P.O. BOX 501719 CK, SAIPAN MP 96950

ONE (1) HEAD COOK
Duties/Responsibilities:

- Prepare, season, and cook dishes such as soup, meat, vegetables or dessert upon order by patrons; Ensure freshness of food and ingredients by checking the quality of food items, keeping track of old and new items; Bake, roast, broil and steam meat, fish, vegetables and other food items; Instruct cook helper to portion, arrange, and garnish food being served to customers and supervise them accordingly; Observe and test the food to determine if they have been cooked sufficiently using methods necessary; May order supplies and keep records to be use in pricing; Analyze recipes to assign prices to menu items, based on food, labor and overhead cost; Recruit and hire staff such as cook helpers and others as needed.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school graduate or equivalence
- Must have 12 months experience in cooking Japanese variety of foods;
- Must be familiar with different Japanese Kitchen Equipment.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS:

- SUBMIT APPLICATION LETTER OR RESUME AT THE RESTAURANT FROM 4:30 PM TO 11:00 PM – Monday to Saturday or send resume via email at CERVANTES_VG@Y-MAIL.COM;
- Please check the CNMI Department of Labor site or call 670 2345878 or visit us during store hours and look for Tsukasa Kuribayashi for inquiries.

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US gets past Turkey in OT; Tatum injured

SHANGHAI (AP) — In the ultimate moments, everything hinged on free throws.

Turkey missed them.

The U.S. made them.

And that is how the Americans escaped what would have been a massive World Cup upset. Khris Middleton's two foul shots with 2.1 seconds left in overtime capped a wild finish to a wild game, as the U.S. held off Turkey 93-92 in a Group E game on Tuesday night—a contest that the underdogs simply gave away in the final moments.

"It was a heck of a game," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "As we all know, it was anybody's game. We will accept the win."

The U.S. wasted a 15-point lead in the first half, didn't trail until the final moments of regulation, needed two free throws from Jayson Tatum with one-tenth of a second left just to get into overtime, came back from five points down in the extra session and—if all that wasn't enough—needed Turkey to go 0 for 4 from the foul line in the last 9 seconds.

"It means a lot. It means a lot, man," U.S. guard Kemba Walker said.

Dogus Balbay missed a pair following an intentional foul with the U.S. down one, and Cedi Osman missed two more about a second later. Those misses by Osman set up the last U.S. possession, one where Tatum controlled a rebound, brought the ball down and found Middleton for a drive to the rim. Tatum went down, spraining his left ankle on the play.

The U.S. didn't go down with him.

Middleton made both, Ersan Ilyasova missed a jumper for Turkey as time expired and the U.S. survived.

"It really hurts," Turkey's Furkan Korkmaz said. "I think



it was in our hands — not their hands."

Middleton led the U.S. with 15 points. Walker, who single-handedly accounted for the rally from down five, scored 14. Tatum finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Ilyasova led Turkey with 23 points. Melih Mahmutoglu had 18, Furkan Korkmaz scored 16 and Osman added 15 for Turkey—which was within a hair of one of the biggest wins in its basketball history, on a night when it seemed like all 18,000 whistling and hooting fans at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center were in their favor.

"I need mental strength to overcome this," Turkey coach Ufuk Sarica said.

The Americans have now won 21 consecutive World Cup games, extending the re-

cord for any nation at FIBA's signature event. The U.S. also extended its winning streak to 55 games in international tournaments with NBA players on the roster, starting with the bronze-medal game at the 2006 world championships.

And they clinched a spot in the second round—though that seemed ancillary.

"We capped it off at the end," U.S. center Myles Turner said. "All that matters. JT, Kemba, Khris, a lot of guys made big plays down the stretch."

Ilyasova's tip-in with 12.3 seconds remaining in regulation gave Turkey its first lead at 81-79. Turkey had gone 0 for 9 on shots to take the lead before Ilyasova's swat bounced off the rim and

dropped through the net.

The U.S. went for the win on the ensuing possession, first with Middleton missing a 3-pointer and then the ball finding Tatum as the last seconds ticked away. He got fouled by Osman as he took a 3-point attempt from the top of the key; the scoreboard showed no time left, but officials put one-tenth of a second on after review.

He made the first. The second rimmed out. The third, with the game on the line, rattled home.

"JT, that kid is 21 years old, man," Walker said of his Boston teammate. "He was huge for us."

The U.S. led 41-26 in the second quarter when Turkey got a spark from a guard—from Gainesville, Florida.

Scottie Wilbekin, who played four years of college ball for Florida and got his Turkish passport last year, fueled a 12-0 run that awoke the pro-Turkey crowd. He got it going with a 3-pointer, fed Ilyasova for another 3 not long afterward and converted a four-point play with 3:12 left in the half.

The U.S. lead was 46-41 at the break, Turkey tied the game in the third quarter, and it stayed tight the rest of the way.

"Every team wants to beat us," Turner said. "Every team will give us their best shot. But more than anything, we stick together."

Australia 81, Senegal 68

Australia showed it can do damage by ending the Ameri-

cans' 78-game winning streak in a warm-up game just over a week ago.

On Tuesday in Group H, the Boomers defeated Senegal in Dongguan in the far south of China to improve to 2-0 and qualify for the second round. Senegal is 0-2.

Patty Mills of the San Antonio Spurs led Australia with 22 points, but Joe Ingles of the Utah Jazz was the game's top player with 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists.

Ingles was one assist away from a triple-double, which a FIBA official told him would have been a first in the World Cup.

"I didn't know that, but even though I do know it now it still doesn't bother me," he said. "The only goal today was to win the game and that's all our focus."

It was not that easy despite Ingles' big numbers.

Australia led 36-33 at the half and struggled with the tall African team. Senegal has nine players at least 2.02 meters (6-foot-8) or taller. And four at 2.08 (6-foot-10) or taller.

"That could be the tallest overall team that we've played against in my time as coach," Australia coach Andrej Lemanis said.

Lithuania 92, Canada 69

At Dongguan, Lithuania booked its place in the second round. The victory also assured Australia of advancing from Group H.

Lithuania, which is 2-0, had six players in double figures, topped by Edgaras Ulanovas and Jonas Valanciunas with 13 each. Kyle Wiltjer led Canada

United States' Jayson Tatum tries to get past Turkey defenders during a Group E match for the FIBA Basketball World Cup at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center in Shanghai on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019.

with 24. Canada fell to 0-2.

New Zealand 93, Montenegro 83

At Nanjing, New Zealand downed Montenegro to move to 1-1 in Group F. Montenegro is 0-2.

Corey Webster led the Kiwis with 25 points and teammate Isaac Fotu added 20. Nikola Ivanovic had 18 to lead Montenegro, and Nikola Vucevic added 15.

Brazil 79, Greece 78

At Nanjing, Brazil improved to 2-0 and moved closer to the second round. Greece fell to 1-1 in Group F and will need a win in its final group game with New Zealand.

Anderson Varejao hit a critical jumper for Brazil with 14 seconds left and Leandrinho Barbosa hit a final free throw for the three-point edge.

Kostas Sloukas had three free throws with two seconds left that would have tied the score, but he made only two.

Varejao led Brazil with 22 points, while Georgios Printezis led Greece with 20.

Czech Republic 89, Japan 76

At Shanghai, Blake Schilb and Jaromira Bohacik each scored 22 points and the Czech Republic kept Japan winless in Group E.

Tomas Satoransky had 15 points, seven assists and six rebounds for the Czechs (1-1).

Rui Hachimura led Japan (0-2) with 21 points, while Nick Fazekas had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Dominican Republic 70, Germany 68

At Shenzhen, the Dominican Republic improved to 2-0 and Germany fell to 0-2 in Group G.

Victor Liz led the Dominicans with 17 points and Eloy Vargas added 16 as the Caribbean team advanced to the second round. Dennis Schroder was Germany's top scorer with 20, and Daniel Theis added 12.

France 103, Jordan 64

At Shenzhen, France moved into the second round from Group G along with the Dominican Republic.

France (2-0) had five players in double figures, led by Nando De Colo with 19. Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz added 16. Dar Tucker led Jordan (0-2) with 20 points.

8 countries stay in race to host 2023 Women's World Cup



ZURICH (AP)—Eight countries have stayed in the bidding contest to host the 2023 Women's World Cup, with Belgium and Bolivia dropping out.

FIFA says it has sent "the updated bidding and hosting documents" to the eight member federations. They must file detailed bid plans for the first 32-team tournament by Dec. 13.

The eight are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa and South Korea.

The Korean bid could yet be a joint project with North Korea.

FIFA says all candidates

will be inspected in January and February ahead of a FIFA Council vote expected in May.

Meanwhile, Carli Lloyd scored twice and the U.S. national team extended its winning streak to 16 games with a 3-0 exhibition victory over Portugal on Tuesday night.

It was Jill Ellis' 105th victory as the U.S. coach, tying her with Tony DiCicco's record from 1994-1999. Ellis, now 105-7-18, plans to step down in October following the team's final two victory tour matches.

The match at Allianz Field was the third of a five-city tour celebrating the U.S. team's World Cup victory this summer in France. It was the team's second straight World

Cup title and fourth overall.

The Americans also defeated Portugal 4-0 last Thursday at Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field before 49,504 fans, the largest ever for a stand-alone friendly game for the U.S. women.

The Americans have won all nine of their meetings with Portugal and have never allowed a goal.

Lloyd scored in the 22nd minute and converted a penalty kick some 10 minutes later. The 37-year-old has 117 career goals and leads the team with 12 this year alone.

Lindsey Horan scored in 93rd minute on a header off a corner kick from Christen Press, who has a team-best 11 assists this year.

Harper drives 100th run, Phillies top Reds



CINCINNATI (AP) —

Bryce Harper drove in his 100th run with a single, J.T. Realmuto had a pair of hits and a sacrifice fly, and the Philadelphia Phillies won their third in a row Tuesday night, 6-2 over the Cincinnati Reds.

The Phillies began the day 2½ games behind the Cubs for the final NL wild card.

Harper's fifth-inning single made him the first Phillie since Ryan Howard in 2011 to have 30 homers and 100 RBIs in the same season. Harper hit his 30th homer in the series opener, a 7-1 Phillies win on Monday. The last Phillies outfielder to have 30 homers and 100 RBIs in a season was Pat Burrell in 2005.

Harper's single also gave him an 11-game hitting streak.

Left-hander Amir Garrett (4-2) walked a pair of batters and gave up Cesar Hernandez's RBI single that put the Phillies ahead to stay. Scott Kingery homered in the ninth.

Yankees 10, Rangers 1

In New York, James Paxton pitched one-hit ball for seven shutout innings, striking out 12 and winning his seventh straight start as the Yankees beat Texas.

Gary Sánchez hit two home runs, Edwin Encarnación added a two-run drive in his return from the injured list, and Didi Gregorius and Brett Gardner also connected.

Paxton (12-6) pitched quickly and began with 4 2/3 hitless innings. He gave up one hit and walked one.

Edinson Volquez (0-1) opened the game for Texas and allowed two runs on one hit.

Scott Heineman hit his first career homer in the ninth off Jonathan Loaisiga for Texas.

Braves 7, Blue Jays 2

In Atlanta, Josh Donaldson doubled and drove in three runs, Mike Foltynewicz pitched five scoreless innings, and the streaking Braves won their sixth straight game.

Ozzie Albies added an early RBI for the Braves, who are 14-2 since Aug. 16 and 32 games over .500 for the first time since the 2003 team finished 101-61.

Tyler Flowers' three-run double in the eighth finished off the Blue Jays, who have lost 12 of 15 to fall a season-worst 30 games under .500.

Foltynewicz (5-5) allowed a baserunner in each of his innings, but none in scoring position. He walked three and struck out two.

White Sox 6, Indians 5

In Cleveland, Carlos Carrasco received a standing ovation



in his first appearance at Progressive Field since being diagnosed with leukemia, but gave up home runs to James McCann and Eloy Jiménez in the eighth inning that lifted Chicago over the Indians.

Carrasco entered the game with a 5-2 lead, but gave up a three-run homer to McCann, which was followed by Jiménez's second homer of the game.

Cleveland missed a chance to move into a virtual tie with Tampa Bay for the AL wild-card lead. The White Sox ended a season-high seven-game losing streak.

Carrasco (4-7) entered the game after Roberto Pérez's three-homer in the seventh gave Cleveland a 5-2 lead.

Marlins 5, Pirates 4, 10 innings

In Pittsburgh, Miguel Rojas hit a tying home run with two outs in the ninth and Garrett Cooper connected in the 10th as Miami rallied past the Pirates, ending their franchise-record 15-game road losing streak.

The Marlins were down to their final out when Rojas homered to center field off Felipe Vazquez, who had just his third blown save in 27 opportunities.

Cooper's home run, a 444-foot shot to left-center, came with one out off Parker Markel (0-1).

Adam Conley (2-7) got the last out of the ninth when Pablo Reyes was thrown out

at home while trying to score from second base on Adam Frazier's infield single.

Brewers 4, Astros 2

In Milwaukee, Zack Greinke lost his first game since joining Houston, giving up a three-run homer to Eric Thames as the Brewers earned a split of the interleague series.

Greinke (4-1) stumbled for the first time in six starts since being traded from Arizona on July 31st. He allowed four runs on eight hits over six innings. He came in 4-0 in his five previous starts.

Jordan Lyles (10-8) made his first career start against the club that made him the 38th pick of the 2008 major league draft. The right-hander allowed two runs on six hits and struck out two over 6 1/3 innings for his fifth win in seven starts since being acquired on July 29th from Pittsburgh for right-hander Cody Ponce.

Cardinals 1, Giants 0

In St. Louis, Jack Flaherty pitched one-hit ball over eight innings, Marcell Ozuna homered and the Cardinals—with a fluky foul ball-turned-base hit—beat San Francisco.

Flaherty (9-7) carried a no-hitter into the sixth inning and dominated with eight strikeouts and a walk.

Mike Yastrzemski had San Francisco's only two hits.

St. Louis only had five hits, including one by Paul DeJong

that looked like a trick pool shot. DeJong hit a ball that rolled about 10 feet foul of the first base line before spinning all the way back into fair territory roughly 3/4 of the way to the bag. DeJong raced to first to load the bases with two outs in the first.

San Francisco right-hander Dereck Rodriguez pitched out of the inning.

Nationals 11, Mets 10

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Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper, left, and Cesar Hernandez celebrate the team's 6-2 win over the Cincinnati Reds in a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019, in Cincinnati. AP

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Ian Kennedy (2-2) blew his fourth save of the season, but got the win.

Harper drives 100th run, Phillies top Reds



CINCINNATI (AP) —

Bryce Harper drove in his 100th run with a single, J.T. Realmuto had a pair of hits and a sacrifice fly, and the Philadelphia Phillies won their third in a row Tuesday night, 6-2 over the Cincinnati Reds.

The Phillies began the day 2½ games behind the Cubs for the final NL wild card.

Harper's fifth-inning single made him the first Phillie since Ryan Howard in 2011 to have 30 homers and 100 RBIs in the same season. Harper hit his 30th homer in the series opener, a 7-1 Phillies win on Monday. The last Phillies outfielder to have 30 homers and 100 RBIs in a season was Pat Burrell in 2005.

Harper's single also gave him an 11-game hitting streak.

Left-hander Amir Garrett (4-2) walked a pair of batters and gave up Cesar Hernandez's RBI single that put the Phillies ahead to stay. Scott Kingery homered in the ninth.

Yankees 10, Rangers 1

In New York, James Paxton pitched one-hit ball for seven shutout innings, striking out 12 and winning his seventh straight start as the Yankees beat Texas.

Gary Sánchez hit two home runs, Edwin Encarnación added a two-run drive in his return from the injured list, and Didi Gregorius and Brett Gardner also connected.

Paxton (12-6) pitched quickly and began with 4 2/3 hitless innings. He gave up one hit and walked one.

Edinson Volquez (0-1) opened the game for Texas and allowed two runs on one hit.

Scott Heineman hit his first career homer in the ninth off Jonathan Loaisiga for Texas.

Braves 7, Blue Jays 2

In Atlanta, Josh Donaldson doubled and drove in three runs, Mike Foltynewicz pitched five scoreless innings, and the streaking Braves won their sixth straight game.

Ozzie Albies added an early RBI for the Braves, who are 14-2 since Aug. 16 and 32 games over .500 for the first time since the 2003 team finished 101-61.

Tyler Flowers' three-run double in the eighth finished off the Blue Jays, who have lost 12 of 15 to fall a season-worst 30 games under .500.

Foltynewicz (5-5) allowed a baserunner in each of his innings, but none in scoring position. He walked three and struck out two.

White Sox 6, Indians 5

In Cleveland, Carlos Carrasco received a standing ovation



in his first appearance at Progressive Field since being diagnosed with leukemia, but gave up home runs to James McCann and Eloy Jiménez in the eighth inning that lifted Chicago over the Indians.

Carrasco entered the game with a 5-2 lead, but gave up a three-run homer to McCann, which was followed by Jiménez's second homer of the game.

Cleveland missed a chance to move into a virtual tie with Tampa Bay for the AL wild-card lead. The White Sox ended a season-high seven-game losing streak.

Carrasco (4-7) entered the game after Roberto Pérez's three-homer in the seventh gave Cleveland a 5-2 lead.

Marlins 5, Pirates 4, 10 innings

In Pittsburgh, Miguel Rojas hit a tying home run with two outs in the ninth and Garrett Cooper connected in the 10th as Miami rallied past the Pirates, ending their franchise-record 15-game road losing streak.

The Marlins were down to their final out when Rojas homered to center field off Felipe Vazquez, who had just his third blown save in 27 opportunities.

Cooper's home run, a 444-foot shot to left-center, came with one out off Parker Markel (0-1).

Adam Conley (2-7) got the last out of the ninth when Pablo Reyes was thrown out

at home while trying to score from second base on Adam Frazier's infield single.

Brewers 4, Astros 2

In Milwaukee, Zack Greinke lost his first game since joining Houston, giving up a three-run homer to Eric Thames as the Brewers earned a split of the interleague series.

Greinke (4-1) stumbled for the first time in six starts since being traded from Arizona on July 31st. He allowed four runs on eight hits over six innings. He came in 4-0 in his five previous starts.

Jordan Lyles (10-8) made his first career start against the club that made him the 38th pick of the 2008 major league draft. The right-hander allowed two runs on six hits and struck out two over 6 1/3 innings for his fifth win in seven starts since being acquired on July 29th from Pittsburgh for right-hander Cody Ponce.

Cardinals 1, Giants 0

In St. Louis, Jack Flaherty pitched one-hit ball over eight innings, Marcell Ozuna homered and the Cardinals—with a fluky foul ball-turned-base hit—beat San Francisco.

Flaherty (9-7) carried a no-hitter into the sixth inning and dominated with eight strikeouts and a walk.

Mike Yastrzemski had San Francisco's only two hits.

St. Louis only had five hits, including one by Paul DeJong

that looked like a trick pool shot. DeJong hit a ball that rolled about 10 feet foul of the first base line before spinning all the way back into fair territory roughly 3/4 of the way to the bag. DeJong raced to first to load the bases with two outs in the first.

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Erratic Federer out at US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Betrayed by his forehand, and maybe his body, too, Roger Federer is out of the U.S. Open.

Federer gave away a lead against a guy he'd never lost to and was beaten 3-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 by 78th-ranked Grigor Dimitrov in the quarterfinals before a stunned crowd at Arthur Ashe Stadium on Tuesday night.

"He started slowing down a little bit," Dimitrov said. "For sure, in the end, he was not 100% of himself."

Chasing a 21st Grand Slam title, and sixth at Flushing Meadows, the 38-year-old Federer took a rare-for-him medical timeout after the fourth set, leaving the court with a trainer. It was not immediately clear what might have been wrong with Federer, although he did appear to be flexing his back after some points.

"Just disappointed it's over. Because I actually was feeling I was playing really well," said Federer, who said he began having physical problems Tuesday afternoon and then took a rare-for-him medical timeout before the fifth set. "A missed opportunity, to some extent."

When play resumed after a break of nearly 10 minutes, Federer's form never picked up.

He kept contributing to Dimitrov's cause, missing shots this way and that, long or wide or into the net.

The stats were staggering and showed exactly how off Federer was on this evening: 61 unforced errors, 33 on the forehand side. Compare that to his 40 total winners.

Federer had been 7-0 against Dimitrov, taking 16 of their previous 18 sets.

And Federer could have become the oldest man to reach a Grand Slam semifinal since Jimmy Connors was 39 in 1991 at the U.S. Open. He could have claimed a berth in his record 56th career major semifinal.

Instead, it is Dimitrov who will participate in a Slam final four for the third time, facing No. 5 seed Daniil Medvedev on Friday.

Medvedev has drawn plenty of attention at Flushing Meadows for the way he sarcastically thanked booing



crowds, trolling them by suggesting their venom was why he kept winning. Now maybe folks will pay more attention to the 23-year-old Russian's unusual brand of shape-shifting tennis, which carried him past three-time major champion Stan Wawrinka 7-6 (6), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 on Tuesday despite 12 double-faults and a body that's just short of breaking down.

Dimitrov has struggled for much of 2019, failing to even get to a quarterfinal anywhere since Week 1 of the season. And it's been nearly 1½ years since Dimitrov reached a semifinal at any tour-level event, let alone a major.

His Grand Slam results have been

trending in the wrong direction, too: from a loss in the fourth round at the Australian Open to the third round at the French Open to the first round at Wimbledon.

So his ranking, as high as No. 3 a couple of years ago, is nowhere near that now. His coaches, Andre Agassi and Radek Stepanek, aren't anywhere near Flushing Meadows, either.

They opted to stay away from the tournament. Asked why, Dimitrov hemmed and hawed.

It's certainly working so far.

Meanwhile, Medvedev didn't use his latest US Open win to troll the fans, but he continued to roll over opponents the way he's done through-

out the tournament.

"I have two words. First one for sure is electric. Second one, controversy. Because what I've done is not good so many people support me and still so many people don't like me," Medvedev said to a mix of cheers and boos in his post-match interview.

"I can just say, I try to be myself... Sorry guys and thank you."

Batting through a quadriceps injury, the fifth-seeded Medvedev reached the first major semifinal of his career.

Serena needs 44 minutes to reach semis

The numbers associated with Serena

AP
Roger Federer of Switzerland returns to Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis tournament Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019, in New York.

Williams' U.S. Open quarterfinal victory over Wang Qiang were so stark, they bear reading more than once.

Winners: 25-0. Points: 50-15. Minutes: 44. Score: 6-1, 6-0.

This is the portion of the tournament that is supposed to be where winning a Grand Slam title gets difficult, where the remaining players are among the very best opposition around. And yet there was Williams in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Tuesday night, making one of the last eight women in the draw, someone ranked No. 18 in a world of billions, look and feel completely overwhelmed.

"Didn't give her too many chances," Williams said.

A reporter wanted to know what surprised Wang the most about being across the net from Williams for the first time.

"Power," came the answer.

The way she hit groundstrokes from the baseline? The way she served?

"Everything," Wang said with a smile.

Looking as dominant as can be as she moved closer to a 24th Grand Slam singles trophy and seventh U.S. Open championship, Williams was not troubled one bit by the right ankle she rolled in her previous match.

"Physically, I'm feeling great," Williams said, "and more than anything, I'm having fun every time I come out here."

The American will face No. 5 seed Elina Svitolina of Ukraine for a berth in the final. Svitolina eliminated 16th-seeded Johanna Konta of Britain 6-4, 6-4 earlier Tuesday.

"She gets a lot of balls back. She doesn't make a lot of mistakes," Williams said about Svitolina, who beat her at the 2016 Rio Olympics. "She's one of those players that does everything really well. So I have to do everything well, too."



LOS ANGELES

(AP)—

Jared Goff has been a prolific NFL quarterback ever since Sean McVay joined him with the Los Angeles Rams. The quarterback and his coach will get the chance to chase more Super Bowl appearances together now that Goff's long-term future is finally secure.

Goff agreed to a four-year contract extension with the Rams on Tuesday night, keeping the franchise quarterback with Los Angeles through the 2024 season.

The team didn't disclose the terms of its deal with Goff, who led the Rams to the Super Bowl last season. NFL Network reported the deal is worth \$134 million, with a

Rams, Goff agree to 4-year record extension

league-record guarantee of \$110 million.

Goff is beginning his fourth year with the Rams, who made him the No. 1 overall pick in the 2016 draft. After a rocky start as a rookie during the Rams' relocation season, Goff has become a sturdy two-time Pro Bowl selection under McVay over the past two years.

Goff has passed for 8,492 yards with 60 touchdowns and 19 interceptions while going 24-7 in 31 regular-season games as McVay's starter. He has led the Rams to back-to-back NFC West titles and their first Super Bowl appearance in 17 years, becoming the first No. 1 pick to quarterback his

team to a Super Bowl within his first three seasons.

He also led the Rams to two playoff victories last winter, but he struggled along with his teammates in the Super Bowl, going 19 of 38 for 229 yards with one interception in Los Angeles' 13-3 loss.

Although the Rams flopped against New England, the team's belief in Goff never wavered. McVay and Rams general manager Les Snead repeatedly vowed to sign Goff to a long-term extension, expressing constant support for the quarterback who has run McVay's inventive offense during two of the highest-scoring seasons in NFL history.

"Jared is somebody we want

to be the Rams quarterback for a long time," Snead said last weekend when asked about the extension talks that had been happening for months. "Jared wants to be a Ram for a long time, we want him to be a Ram for a long time, and we will continuously try to work to make that happen."

McVay has repeatedly hit back at suggestions that Goff is a system quarterback, with his success due to the inventiveness of McVay's schemes.

"He makes the system what it is," McVay said last month. "We are able to do the things we are because we have the right trigger man that can really do anything that we ask in

terms of changing the launch point, what types of concepts we want to activate, whether it be play-action, the dropback game, quick, intermediate or down the field.

"He's a special player. I think his production speaks for itself. I know I don't want anybody else to be our quarterback."

Goff has had games of exceptional brilliance during his two seasons with McVay, including an epic 465-yard, five-touchdown performance against Minnesota and a 413-yard, four-TD effort in LA's memorable 54-51 Monday night victory over Kansas City. He also had a few tough games down the stretch

last season while the Rams coasted toward the playoffs, but picked up his production with a solid 297-yard effort in the NFC championship game against New Orleans.

Goff doesn't turn 25 until October, and he has been humble about his abilities and expectations despite finishing fourth in the NFL with 4,688 yards passing last year.

Even after Carson Wentz, the No. 2 pick behind Goff in the 2016 draft, got a \$128 million extension from the Eagles in June, Goff said he had no concerns about entering his fourth season without a new deal.

Now he won't have to.

Goff is making about \$4.3 million this season before his pay is scheduled to jump to \$22.8 million in 2020.

Itibus put in the work for BJJ debut

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Brazilian Jiu-jitsu newbie Lo Itibus will venture to Tokyo, Japan this month as the lone female CNMI representative to the Asian International BJJ Federation Jiu-Jitsu Championships.

Itibus, who has been a BJJ practitioner for only two years, will be competing in the light-featherweight division of the event dubbed as Asian Open. As a first-timer, she is extremely excited and proud to represent the Commonwealth and Trench Tech in the tournament that will run from Sept. 13 to 15.

"I'm pretty excited about being the only female to represent the CNMI to the Asian

Open. I'm mostly proud to be doing this for my team.

Our professor, and also my father-in-law, Cuki Alvarez, has always wanted Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu to grow more here in our islands, so I'm happy to be a part of that exposure," she said.

When asked about her training for the competition, Itibus said that it was far from easy, especially the part where she had to lose over 15 lbs to meet the weight requirement for the light-featherweight division.

"Training is definitely never easy, especially when you're training to reach a goal that you've never reached before. In addition to building my BJJ techniques and experience, I also have had to drop my

weight about 15 to 20 lbs to qualify for the weight class I'd like to compete in," Itibus said.

She added that her training regimen pretty much sums up to participating in Trench Tech's BJJ classes, which are two times a week, and the K1/boxing sessions, which are three times a week. Itibus also has open sparring sessions and if for some reasons, she can't make it to one of the classes, she usually tries to make it up with some running. She follows a strict diet, too cutting out unnecessary sodium, sugars, and carbs.

Itibus said that the biggest obstacle she has faced in preparation for the tournament was the lack of female training partners available over the past months. However, she hopes her sparring sessions with the male members of the team will give her sort of an edge when facing female competitors, who have been practicing BJJ longer than she has.

"I do appreciate my female teammates I've gotten to spar

Lo Itibus takes a breather from a BJJ training session at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan last week.

with towards the end of our BJJ camp, including Mariana Alvarez and Luise Villago-me. As a competitor, there is the challenge we all face, and that's simply the physical and mental capacity to balance the demands of our BJJ camp with our regular day-to-day responsibilities. But overcoming that challenge is all dependent on each of our own determination as an athlete," she said.

In terms of her expectation for the competition, Itibus said she hopes to become a better and stronger BJJ practitioner regardless of the outcome of her debut.

"I do know that after participating in this, regardless of the outcome, I will come out of this tournament a better and stronger BJJ athlete. With that being said, I know that I'm training my hardest and that I will definitely perform the best that I can," she said.



SAPONG

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Pacific Games, I have been to four other World Championship competitions, this is inclusive of the World Youth and World Indoor Championships. Doha will be the fifth World Championship that I get to compete in. We're about four weeks out so our sessions are focused on strength training and form technique," she said.

Sapong explained that she was chosen through a selection process that began six months prior to the tournament date.

"The coaches decided on potential candidates by observation of the athletes' season best and their commitment to training," the Micronesian Games gold medalist said.

When asked what her hopes are for joining these kinds of competitions, Sapong said

she strives to encourage other youth to get active so they too can compete internationally.

"I hope that my experience encourages wellness amongst our youth so that they can also have the opportunity to compete and be ambassadors of the CNMI," she said.

Sapong added female athletes she met through international competitions inspires her to do her best and keep improving.

"Majority of my inspiration comes from the female athletes that I meet during our Oceania Area Championships. Seeing women from the other islands competing at such high levels is always amazing. They observe the same values and morals that reflect those of the CNMI and having that sense of familiarity only makes their accomplishments that more admirable. It motivates me to continue to train hard," she said.

AD 'had big say' on Lakers signing of Howard



CALIFORNIA—Apparently LeBron James isn't the only player with pull in the Los Angeles Lakers front office.

According to reports, newly acquired big man Anthony Davis is already making an impact on roster decisions.

It was reported that that Davis lobbied the front office to sign Dwight Howard in the aftermath of DeMarcus Cousins' ACL tear.

It seems he doesn't want to bang with centers like Nikola Jokic and Rudy Gobert.

It makes sense that the Lakers would listen to Davis' concerns here, in that a happy, healthy Davis is best for all parties. Listed at 6-10 and 253 pounds, Davis is more than capable of playing center. An elite defender, he can guard the rim as well as anybody in the league not named Gobert.

But Davis' talents are many, and allowing him to

stretch the floor as a power forward while protecting his body from the rigors of regular post play against the league's strongest bodies is a recipe for success and perhaps a longer career.

Howard, meanwhile, is well suited for the role. A strong, big-bodied center, Howard was one of the league's best defenders and rebounders in his prime. Despite the criticism he's endured as a late-career journeyman, he's remained

effective on both fronts, averaging 12.5 rebounds and 1.6 blocks per game in his most recent healthy season with the Charlotte Hornets in 2017-18.

Injuries limited him to nine games last season with the Washington Wizards. But if he can remain healthy, he can play a valuable role in the Lakers rotation.

A big part of that value will be limiting the physical toll of the game on his superstar teammate.

PLAY

From Page 28

to focus on development and not to worry about the results.

"Forget about the results, play for the future. Thirty-four years ago, Japan did not get the results it wanted, but it continued playing and focused on the improvement of the team, so do the same. Go with hope and you will have a good future," said Kattel.

The CNMI Boys U16 National Team, which has Joe Emil Antonio, Jerald Aquino, Gabriel Arkoh, Dev Bachani, Richard Castro, Jeremiah Diaz, Chad Escaner, Oliver Fajardo, Kohtarō Goto, Dane Rodgers, Xin Wen Jin, Akira Kadokura, Jose Rafael Lopez, Brian Lubao, Jim Kurt Maniago, Alex Megino, Ariel Narvaez, Daniel Mar Pablo, Jerick Quimzon, Andrew Sablan, Leo Takahashi, Merrick Toves, and Garrett



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, third left, congratulates Andrew Sablan, right, for making it to the CNMI Boys U16 National Team, while Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, and Football Association of Maldives president Bassam Adeel Jaleel wait for their turn during the send-off ceremony yesterday at Kanoa Resort.

Weaver as members, will be competing in the Group G qualifiers against China, the Philippines, Brunei, and host

Indonesia. Completing the Commonwealth's delegation to the Sept. 14 to 22 tournament in Jakarta are head

coach Michiteru Mita, team manager Mikky Vargas, assistant coaches Jerish Angeles and Patrick McCallion, and

goalkeeper coach and equipment manager Chris Aninzo.

Torres congratulated those who made the elite team and expressed confidence that the group will represent the CNMI well.

"You've made it this far and I am proud of all of you. When you hold that flag and you walk on that field, you represent all of us," the governor said.

Jaleel, meanwhile was impressed with the number of people that showed up for the send-off ceremony, and he believes this kind of support is what drives a team to go all out when it competes.

"You have almost everyone here, the FA officials, parents, co-players, family members, friends, and government officials supporting the team. It's amazing," said the FAM president, whose national team is on Guam for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Qualification.

Tan, for this part, thanked AFC for continuously providing CNMI players the opportunity to participate in high-level tournaments.

"One of the key factors in our continued growth is the help we are getting from AFC. We keep on getting invites from AFC to compete in the region. Also, as I have been saying before every time we do this send-off ceremony, we also have to thank the players' parents for their untiring support to the program and their children," Tan said.

The CNMI Boys U16 National Team will leave Saipan for Jakarta on Sept. 12 and will have its first game in the qualifier on Sept. 14 against the Philippines.

"This is it. This is what we have been training hard for and we will do our best to play for the CNMI, play for our supporters, and show respect and love for the game," said Toves, the team captain.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



US gets past
Turkey in OT;
Tatum injured

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out at US Open

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28 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'Play for love, play for future'



ANTONIO



AQUINO



ARKOH



BACHANI



CASTRO



DIAZ



ESCANER



FAJARDO



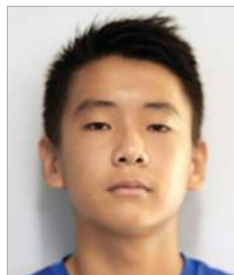
GOTO



HODGES



JIN



KADOKURA



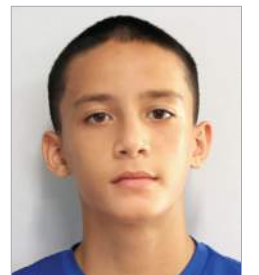
LOPEZ



LUBAO



MANIAGO



MEGINO



NARVAEZ



PABLO



QUIMZON



SABLAN



TAKAHASHI



TOVES



WEAVER



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Boys U16 National Team players and officials pose for a photo with their well-wishers, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated sixth left, Football Association of Maldives president Bassam Adeel Jaleel, seated seventh left, and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, seated eighth left, during a send-off ceremony yesterday at Kanoa Resort.

A throng of well-wishers greeted the CNMI Boys U16 National Team in yesterday's send-off ceremony at Kanoa Resort, boosting the group's morale, as it braces for the tough battle in the Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers in Indonesia.

"When you go out there, play for love for soccer, show you passion for the game. Whatever you will learn from the tournament, bring it back here and share them," said Football Association of Mal-

dives president Bassam Adeel Jaleel, who was among the guests at the send-off event, joining Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his wife, Diann, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president

Jerry Tan, NMIFA Executive Committee members Patricia Coleman and Wesley Bogdan, NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta, and AFC International Relations Officer Purushottam Kattel.

Kattel also delivered a message in front of the 23 members of the team, encouraging them

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Sapong off to 5th world champs appearance



By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Zarinae Sapong will be representing the CNMI to the 2019 World Championships in Doha, Qatar.

Sapong will race in the 100m qualifying run of the competition that will be held from Sept. 27 to Oct. 6 at the Khalifa International Stadium.

"It's a huge responsibility to represent the CNMI and although at times it can be nerve wrecking, the support I get from home only makes me that more determined to improve," she said.

The sprinter, who is no stranger to high-level competitions, such as the World Championships, said that she works on strength training and mastering form techniques to prepare for her event.

"Besides the Oceania Championships, the Micronesian Games, and the

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SAPONG